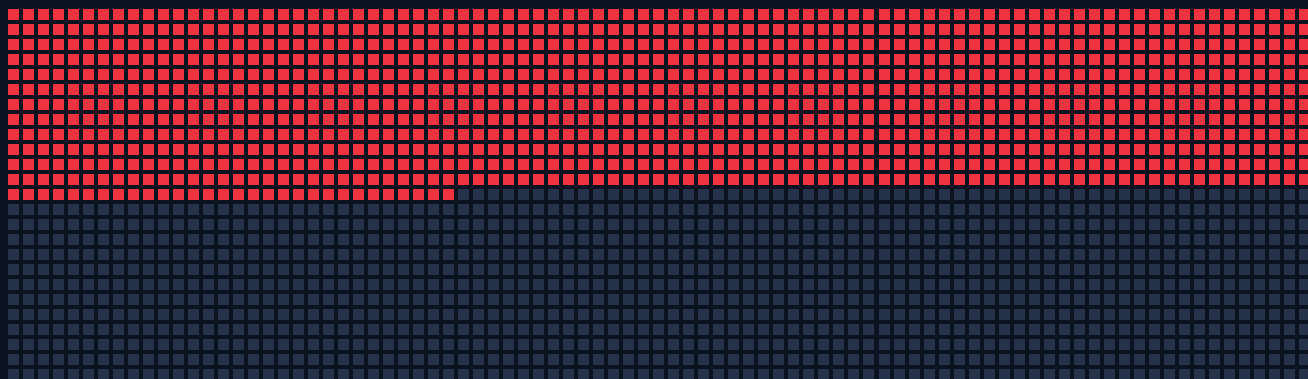


The State of Licensed Child Care in Canada 2026

Half of the communities with any licensed child care at all have exactly one option: 1,074 of 2,175 communities (49.4%) are served by a single licensed programme.



One square = one community. Red = exactly one licensed programme (1,074); navy = two or more (1,101).

20,516

licensed programmes

8

provinces

2,175

communities

45.9%

address-level coords

2026-08-10 edition · first published 2026-07-07 · n = 20,516 visible licensed programmes

Fee rules verified 2026-07-05 · sources audited 2026-08-11

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At a glance

Licensed programmes	20,516	visible licensed programmes, 8 provinces, deduplicated
Centres / family homes	17,001 / 3,515	provider type as recorded by the provincial registry
Communities	2,175	normalized city names with at least one licensed programme
One-option communities	1,074 (49.4%)	communities served by exactly one licensed programme
Carrying a coordinate	20,481 (99.8%)	not a precision measure on its own — see the two rows below
Address-level coords	9,400 (45.9%)	of the listings carrying a coordinate, the share that is a street address
Centroid coords	11,081 (54.1%)	postal-district or municipal centroid, shared by up to 57 listings in 27 towns
Published capacity	479,782	licensed spaces — only QC, AB and NS publish them as open data
Children aged 0–4	1,836,858	StatCan Table 17-10-0005-01, July 1 2025 estimates
Highest supply rate	27.7 per 1,000	New Brunswick; Ontario is last at 6.1
With a website	7,747 (40%)	frozen quarterly snapshot; of the 19,569 programmes in 7 matched provinces. The live column read 8,369 on 2026-08-11
Matched by MapleCub	9,252 (47%)	listings we hold a Google place record for — the ceiling on every rating figure below
Rated among matched	5,991 (65%)	132,162 parent reviews in total. Of ALL listings, 31.8% — a floor set by our match rate, not a finding about the sector
Nearest alternative	160 of 309 (52%)	one-option communities with another licensed programme within 10 km, in the four provinces with address-level coordinates

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10 (n = 20,516). child population: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01 (July 1, 2025 estimates).

This is the print edition of a living web report. The web version at <https://www.maplecub.ca/research/state-of-child-care-2026> carries the same figures — both are generated from one data module, so they cannot disagree. Dataset queried 2026-08-10; fee rules verified 2026-07-05; sources audited 2026-08-11.

What this report counts. Visible licensed child-care programmes in MapleCub's registry-derived dataset for the eight provinces that publish registries, after deduplication (290 duplicate records identified and merged in the July 2026 dedup pass). It counts licensed points of access a parent can look up. It is not a count of licensed spaces, and it says nothing about whether a space is free.

Findings

Canada does not have one child-care system. It has at least eight. Each province licenses providers under its own rules, publishes its own data, and runs its own version of "\$10-a-day." This report puts those systems side by side, using a single deduplicated dataset of 20,516 licensed child-care programmes across 2,175 communities in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia — 99.8% of them carrying a coordinate, of which 45.9% are address-level and 54.1% are a postal-district or municipal centroid; every record carrying the provincial registry identifier it was ingested with (20,516).

How many licensed daycares are there in Canada?

As of 2026-08-10, MapleCub counts 20,516 licensed child-care programs across the eight provinces that publish registries — British Columbia (5,702), Ontario (4,374), Quebec (3,774), Alberta (2,912), Saskatchewan (1,320), Manitoba (1,139), New Brunswick (947), Nova Scotia (348). No federal body publishes a national count; this figure is computed from the provincial licensing registries, deduplicated, and free to download (CC BY 4.0).

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10 (n = 20,516).

- **New Brunswick has the highest rate of licensed programmes per 1,000 young children (27.7)**, ahead of British Columbia (26.3). Both provinces license small family child cares one by one, so each home is its own registry row. The rate counts licensed points of access, not spaces — and it counts programmes of every type against a 0-4 denominator: 273 of New Brunswick's records are out-of-school care, which would move it to 19.7. See the sensitivity beside Figure 1 before quoting either number.
- **1,074 communities have exactly one licensed option** — 49.4% of every community with any licensed care at all. Just under half have no second choice.
- **Only three of eight provinces publish licensed capacity as open data.** Quebec, Alberta and Nova Scotia state licensed spaces in machine-readable form — 479,782 spaces in total; the other five publish programme lists without saying how many children each can serve.
- **Only Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are at or below \$10/day in 2026 — and Quebec's status expires with the year.** Its \$9.65/day reduced contribution holds until December 31, 2026 and rises to \$10.60/day on January 1, 2027 under the province's own 2026-2027 budgetary rules, so this finding is true for 2026 and false from January 2027.
- **Bulk inspection or enforcement data exists in three provinces, and each file is a moving target.** Alberta's extract carried 15,566 records, Nova Scotia's 645, Quebec's 730 penalties — all three published below as dated extracts, because all three sources have moved since we pulled them. Ontario, British Columbia and New Brunswick publish findings through per-facility lookups; Saskatchewan and Manitoba publish neither.

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10.

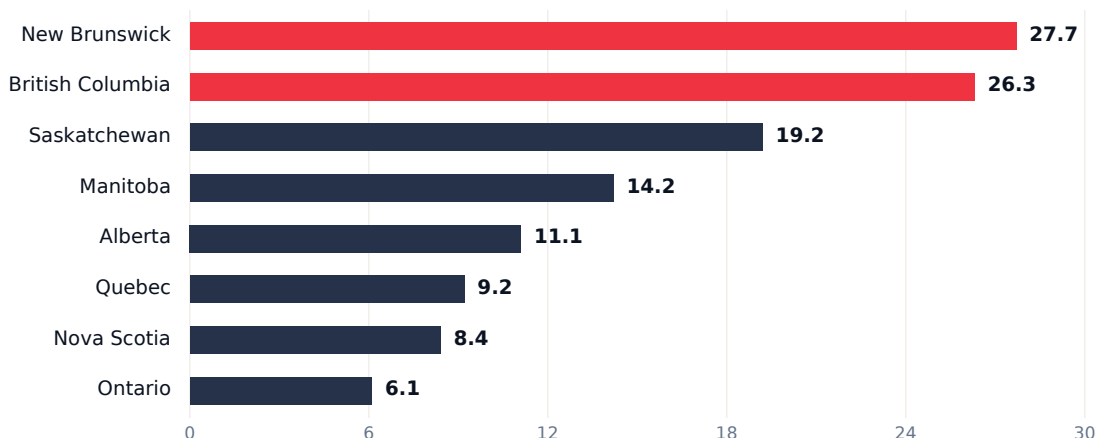
Where the programmes are

Licensed programmes per 1,000 children aged 0-4 is the cleanest cross-province supply signal our data supports, but it must be read with the registry differences in mind. British Columbia and New Brunswick license small family child cares individually, so each home appears in the registry; Ontario licenses home

child care through agencies, so thousands of individual homes sit behind 165 agency records. The rate below measures licensed points of access a parent can look up, not spaces.

On that measure New Brunswick now leads the country at 27.7 programmes per 1,000 children under five, a shade above British Columbia's 26.3. New Brunswick is a small province with a wide licensing net: 947 facilities for 34,230 young children, 135 of them licensed family homes. Ontario sits last at 6.1 for the opposite reason: its home-care sector is licensed at the agency level and never surfaces as individual records.

Figure 1 — Licensed child-care programmes per 1,000 children aged 0-4, by province, 2026



Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. child population: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01 (July 1, 2025 estimates).

4.5×

New Brunswick lists 4.5 times as many licensed programmes per 1,000 young children as Ontario — 27.7 against 6.1. Almost all of that distance is how the two provinces write down home-based care, which is exactly why a national number nobody publishes is worth computing carefully.

Table 1 — Licensed programmes, provider mix and child population by province, 2026

Province	Licensed programmes	Centres	Family homes	Children 0-4	School-age only	Per 1,000	Ex. school-age
British Columbia	5,702	3,849	1,853	216,910	57 of 823	26.3	26.0
Ontario	4,374	4,209	165	720,586	23 of 784	6.1	6.0
Quebec	3,774	3,774	0	411,925	0 of 3,774	9.2	9.2
Alberta	2,912	2,771	141	262,923	531 of 2,756	11.1	9.1
Saskatchewan	1,320	450	870	68,675	0 of 226	19.2	19.2
Manitoba	1,139	802	337	80,298	96 of 1,070	14.2	13.0
New Brunswick	947	812	135	34,230	273 of 947	27.7	19.7
Nova Scotia	348	334	14	41,311	40 of 334	8.4	7.5
All eight provinces	20,516	17,001	3,515	1,836,858	1,020		

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. child population: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01 (July 1, 2025 estimates).

What the denominator does not cover

The numerator counts licensed programmes of every type; the denominator counts children aged 0–4. Some of those programmes are out-of-school care, serving children above the band. Where a registry publishes age groups we can count them: Quebec 0, New Brunswick 273, Nova Scotia 40, Alberta 531, Manitoba 96. Removing them moves New Brunswick from 27.7 to 19.7, Alberta from 11.1 to 9.1, Manitoba from 14.2 to 13.0 and Nova Scotia from 8.4 to 7.5. Quebec does not move.

We do not publish that as the headline rate, and the reason matters. The age band is only recorded for part of the dataset — 100% of Quebec rows and 100% of New Brunswick's, against 14% of British Columbia's, 18% of Ontario's and 17% of Saskatchewan's. Excluding school-age programmes everywhere would subtract real programmes from the five provinces whose registries publish age bands and almost none from the three that do not, so the "corrected" league table would rank provinces by registry disclosure rather than by supply. That is the same error this report corrects in the visibility section, and we are not going to commit it here to fix it there.

So the headline rate stays on all licensed programmes, computed identically in all eight provinces, and the sensitivity is published beside it in Table 1. A reader who prefers the narrower measure should note what it does: on the exclusion, 26.0 would put British Columbia ahead of New Brunswick's 19.7, and Alberta's 9.1 would fall below Quebec's 9.2. Both movements are driven by which registries record ages, which is why they are shown and not ranked.

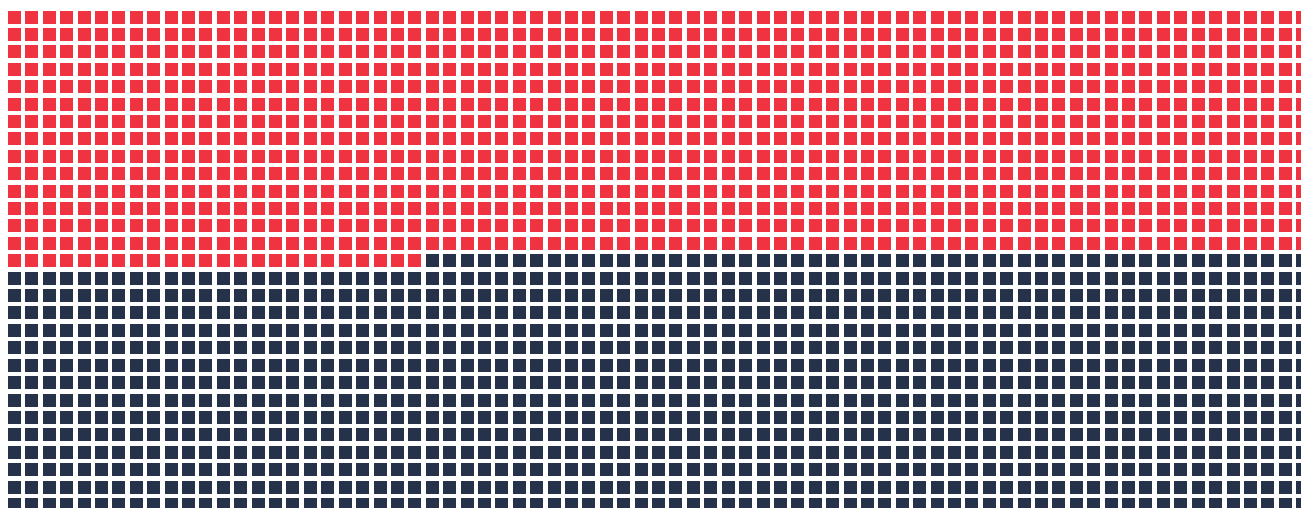
The provider mix itself tells a policy story. Saskatchewan's licensed system is 66% family child-care homes, the highest share in the country, while Ontario's registry is 96% centres. Quebec's 3,774 installations include no individually licensed homes at all: home-based care there runs through recognized coordinating offices, another reminder that provincial registries measure different things.

The one-option communities

1,074 of 2,175 communities with licensed child care across the eight provinces MapleCub tracks (49.4%) have exactly one licensed program — no second choice within that community, no comparing centres, one licence serves the whole community. The named list of these communities publishes 1,031 of the 1,074, dropping 43 registry spelling and punctuation variants of cities that already hold other licensed programmes; on that cleaner definition the share is 48.4% rather than 49.4%.

49.4% is just under half. In these places there is no comparing, no waitlist hedging, no choosing between a centre and a home: one licence serves the community, or the family drives. Saskatchewan has the starkest geography: 127 of its 176 communities (72%) are one-option, and 75.9% of all its licensed programmes sit in just five cities. Ontario (271) and Quebec (297) cover the most communities of any province and also carry the largest absolute counts of one-option towns.

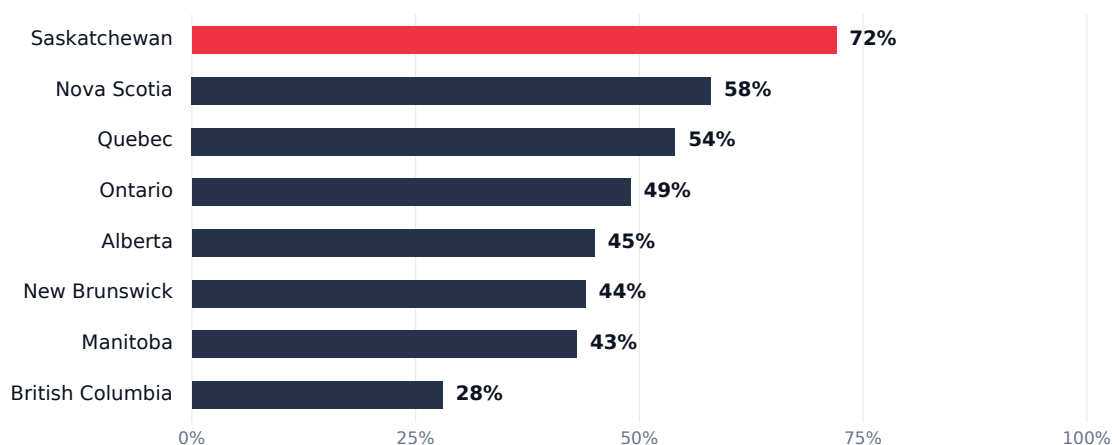
Figure 2 — Every community, one square. Red = exactly one licensed programme.



1,074 communities with exactly one licensed programme · 1,101 with two or more · 2,175 squares in total.

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. community = normalized city name (lower-cased, trimmed, non-empty).

Figure 3 — Share of communities with exactly one licensed programme, by province, 2026



Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. community = normalized city name (lower-cased, trimmed, non-empty).

What a community is, and what it is not. A community here is `lower(trim(city))` within a province, non-empty — the normalized registry city name, not a census subdivision. That definition merges the case and abbreviation variants the Manitoba and Saskatchewan registries ship, but it also splits a single town across two spellings when the registry does, and it cannot see a family who drives twenty minutes into the next town. Eight Saskatchewan and 47 Manitoba rows carry no city value at all and sit outside these counts. Read "one-option community" as one licensed programme written down under that name — not as a claim about a travel-time catchment.

How far is the next licensed programme?

The obvious objection to the headline is the strongest one, so here is the measurement rather than an argument. For every one-option community we took its single listing and found the nearest other visible licensed programme in a different community. Because a postal-district centroid cannot answer a distance question, we ran it only where the coordinates are street addresses: British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. That is 310 one-option communities, of which 309 were computable — one British Columbia community's listing sits on a shared centroid point and was dropped.

160 of 309 (52%) have another licensed programme within 10 km, and 260 (84%) within 25 km. So for about half of them, "one option" describes the registry rather than the drive. The other half is the finding that survives contact with a map: 48% of these communities have no second licensed programme within 10 km in any direction, and 16% have none within 25.

Table 2a — Distance to the nearest licensed programme in another community, one-option communities, 2026

Province	One-option	Computable	Within 10 km	Within 25 km
British Columbia	61	60	33 (55%)	45 (75%)
Alberta	108	108	28 (26%)	83 (77%)
Nova Scotia	68	68	43 (63%)	61 (90%)
New Brunswick	73	73	56 (77%)	71 (97%)
Four provinces	310	309	160 (52%)	260 (84%)

Straight-line distance between two licences, not travel time and not an offer of a place: the programme 8 km away may have a two-year waitlist, may not take infants, and may be across a body of water. The four remaining provinces are absent because their coordinates are postal-district centroids, which would have produced a confident answer to a question the data cannot hear.

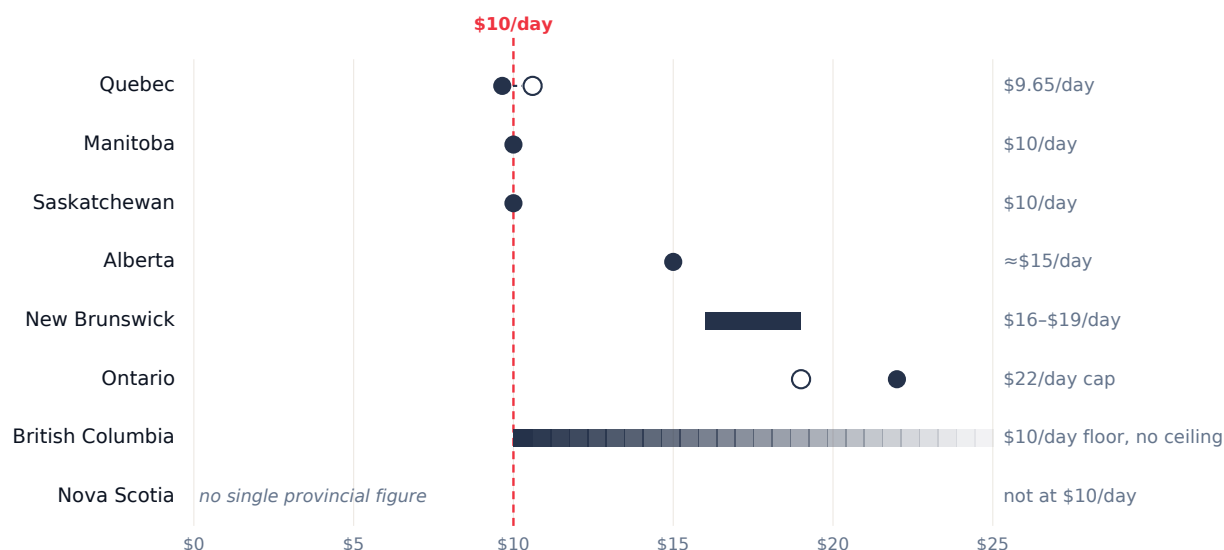
Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10 (n = 309). nearest-alternative analysis computed 2026-08-11, address-level coordinates only.

What parents actually pay in 2026

"\$10-a-day child care" is a federal promise implemented eight different ways. Ottawa counts eight provinces and territories delivering regulated care "for an average of \$10 a day or less" across thirteen jurisdictions; counting published provincial rules across the eight provinces in this dataset, three qualify. Both statements are true — they use different denominators, and the difference is the reason this section exists.

The chart below is drawn so that unlike things look unlike. A dot is a single published rate. A bar is a published band. Nova Scotia gets no marker at all, because it publishes no single provincial figure — inventing one to fill the row would be the exact error the chart exists to prevent.

Figure 4 — What a family pays per day at a participating provider, by province, 2026, against the \$10/day reference line



Dot = one published rate. Bar = a published band. Hollow marker = a second, different commitment (Ontario's \$19 average) or a published, forward-dated change (Quebec's \$10.60 from January 1, 2027). British Columbia's bar fades because the province publishes a floor and no ceiling. Nova Scotia has no marker: its reduction comes off each provider's own fee.

Fee rules verified 2026-07-05 against official provincial sources; every figure cited in the Sources appendix.

Quebec — \$9.65/day

Flat reduced-contribution rate at subsidized (subventionné) providers, fixed in regulation and indexed each January 1. The rate holds at \$9.65/day only until December 31, 2026; the ministry's own 2026-2027 budgetary rules set it to rise to \$10.60/day on January 1, 2027, a 9.8% increase that ends Quebec's below-\$10 status. Non-subsidized care is offset by Quebec's refundable tax credit for childcare expenses.

Manitoba — \$10/day

Regulated maximum total daily fee at funded facilities for 4–10 hours of care (M.R. 62/86, in force since December 8, 2024): \$8 maximum subsidized fee plus a \$2 maximum additional fee. Manitoba publishes whether a specific facility is funded, and the fees it may charge, in Manitoba Child Care Search — but the province's downloadable provider list carries no funding column, so the split cannot be counted province-wide.

Saskatchewan — \$10/day

Flat \$217.50/month for children under 6 in licensed care since April 2023; extended on April 1, 2026 to children who turn six during kindergarten. Since July 1, 2026 the \$10 buys a standard 10-hour day, and operators may charge fees for hours beyond it.

Alberta — ≈\$15/day

Flat parent fee of \$326.25/month for full-time care (100 or more hours per month) and \$230/month part-time at providers taking affordability funding, since April 1, 2025. Not yet \$10/day.

New Brunswick — \$16-\$19/day

Standardized provincial Parent Fee Grid at designated facilities since May 1, 2026: full-day \$19/day infant (0–24 months) / \$16/day preschool; the grid's part-day rate is \$12 infant / \$7 preschool; no applications, eligibility criteria or income testing. 641 of NB's 947 licensed facilities (68%) are designated; non-designated families with gross household income of \$80,000 or less may use the Childcare Assistance Program.

Ontario — \$22/day cap

CWELCC fee cap of \$22/day, in force since January 1, 2025. Separately, the one-year federal extension holds the provincial average at \$19/day until December 31, 2026 and runs the agreement to March 31, 2027. The cap and the average come from two different commitments, and neither is \$10/day.

British Columbia — \$10/day floor, no ceiling

CCFRI reduces fees by up to \$900/month (under 36 months, group care), and out-of-pocket fees are never reduced below \$200/month — \$10/day — for full-time care. True \$10-a-Day pricing applies only at designated \$10-a-Day ChildCareBC sites; everywhere else a family pays whatever is left of the provider's own fee, and British Columbia publishes no ceiling.

Nova Scotia — not at \$10/day

Fixed dollar-per-day reductions subtracted from each provider's own fee — \$18.25/day for full-day centre toddler and preschool care, \$17.00/day for family-home infant care — unchanged since December 31, 2022. Because the reduction comes off whatever the provider charges, there is no single provincial daily figure. The province's own page still says fees will move to \$10 a day on average by 2026; they have not.

Quebec is leaving the group. The \$9.65/day reduced contribution is current and regulated, but the ministry's own 2026-2027 budgetary rules state that it holds only until December 31, 2026 and rises to \$10.60/day on January 1, 2027 — a 9.8% increase, published in the province's own document. Anyone quoting "only Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan" after New Year's Day will be quoting a finding that has expired.

Ontario's two numbers come from two different promises. The province capped CWELCC fees at \$22/day on January 1, 2025 and states that this brought the provincial average to \$19/day. Separately, the federal one-year extension provides funding to hold eligible fees at their current average of \$19 per day until December 31, 2026 and runs the agreement to March 31, 2027. The commitment with the end date is to the average, not to the cap.

Claimed versus measured: what registries actually record

A fee rule is a claim about a province. Whether a specific facility is in the programme is a fact about a facility — and only three of the eight registries publish a per-facility field that distinguishes anything. The other five publish one value for every row, so nothing about an individual facility can be read from them. That is a finding about published data, not about participation: a province with no field may still have near-universal take-up.

Table 2 — What each registry lets an outsider measure, 2026

Province	What the registry publishes	Measured	Share
Quebec	Listed as subsidized (subventionné) — the network where the reduced contribution applies	2,788 of 3,774	73.9%
Manitoba	No funding or fee field in the published provider list	no signal	—
Saskatchewan	No fee-program field in the published provider list	no signal	—
Alberta	No affordability-grant field in the open data	no signal	—
New Brunswick	Designated under the provincial Parent Fee Grid	641 of 947	67.7%
Ontario	No CWELCC enrolment field in the open data	no signal	—
British Columbia	Authorized for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) — a fee reduction, not a \$10 rate	5,500 of 5,702	96.5%
Nova Scotia	No fee-program field in the Child Care Directory	no signal	—

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. denominators are each province's visible licensed programmes, read from the same table as Table 1.

The transparency gap

Whether a parent can see a facility's inspection history depends almost entirely on their postal code. Six of the eight provinces publish inspection or enforcement findings in some form, and as of this edition all six are cited to a government page we opened — the previous edition counted Ontario and British Columbia among them without a source for either. We can confirm bulk, machine-readable data in three — Alberta, Nova Scotia, Quebec. Those three counts need reading carefully, because each is a *dated extract of a file that has since moved*, not the live record.

As extracted on 2026-07-05, Alberta's published Child Care Information dataset carried 15,566 inspection records covering 2,874 facilities across July 2024 – December 2025 — 11,770 routine inspections, 2,274 follow-ups and 1,522 complaint-triggered visits. The province publishes a rolling 18-month window refreshed quarterly, so today's file will differ.

As extracted on 2026-07-11, Nova Scotia's Child Care Directory carried 645 inspection records across 339 facilities (328 annual, 317 unannounced) across November 2010 – August 2025. The directory is updated bi-annually; the directory was refreshed on 2026-07-19 and is now current to June 30, 2026, so today's file will differ.

As extracted on 2026-08-10, Quebec's quarterly registers of administrative penalties carried **730 penalties totalling \$699,500** issued to 321 facilities across January 2023 – September 2025. Those registers are published quarterly; two further registers (October–December 2025 and January–March 2026) have appeared since, so today's registers cover a longer window. Quebec also publishes inspection results for individual facilities on the ministry's interactive childcare map, so the honest axis is not enforcement versus inspection — it is bulk versus one facility at a time.

Ontario, British Columbia and New Brunswick publish findings through per-facility lookups, and the three lookups are not the same thing. New Brunswick's Childcare Finder carries past and recent inspection reports under each facility's "More Details" link — genuinely useful to a parent checking one centre, useless to anyone asking a question about the whole province. The province does not state a retention window; an earlier edition of this report said five years, which no published page supports, and the claim has been dropped.

British Columbia licenses child care through the regional health authorities, and the province points families at those five authorities' own pages, where you can "view summary reports of inspections and substantiated complaints" — summary reports of inspections and substantiated complaints, held by the five regional health authorities rather than by the province, so there is no single provincial file to read.

Ontario is the narrowest of the three. **Ontario publishes confirmed violations and offences only — compliance orders, protection orders, administrative penalties, restraining orders and prosecutions. A routine Ontario inspection that ends in compliance is never published, and the provincial file of assessment results is withheld.** The child care violations registry covers licensed providers back to August 2015 and unlicensed providers back to January 2012. That is a real disclosure and it belongs in the count of six. It is also not what a parent thinks they are getting: an Ontario centre with a spotless registry entry may simply never have been ordered to fix anything, and from outside there is no way to tell that apart from never having been inspected.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba: no bulk inspection or enforcement dataset found on either province's open-data portal or child-care ministry pages, searched 2026-08-11. A negative like that needs a documented search rather than a citation, so the search and its date are stated instead of a link. No province publishes data that would let anyone honestly compute a comparative "safety score," which is

why MapleCub does not: we show dated inspection facts where they exist and say plainly where they do not. "No violations on record" in a province that publishes no records is not the same thing as a clean history.

Resolved since the last edition: the Ontario compliance dataset

The 2026-08-10 edition carried an open question here, because data.ontario.ca returned an empty response to every request we made. On 2026-08-11 the host answered. The compliance dataset exists, it describes exactly the file this report wanted — the results of the assessments that check every licensed facility against the Child Care and Early Years Act — and it is withheld: "This data is not available right now. We are reviewing the data to determine if it can be made open to the public." Its last validated date is February 2017, and the sibling serious-incidents dataset carries the identical notice. Two withheld files rather than one absent file: Ontario's bulk position is a decision, not a gap. The previous edition promised to update this section and say what changed if the file turned out to be readable. It was, and this is that update.

The same gap applies to capacity. Only Quebec (237,634 spaces), Alberta (222,932, including school-age care) and Nova Scotia (19,216, covering 334 of its 348 listed programmes) state licensed capacity in their open data — 479,782 spaces in total. British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick publish programme lists without machine-readable capacity, which means nobody outside those governments can compute how many licensed spaces exist per child. For a national programme spending billions to create "new spaces," the count of existing ones is surprisingly hard to audit.

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. inspection and capacity figures are dated extracts; extract dates and publisher refresh cycles stated inline.

The visibility problem — and how much of it is ours

This section is about a MapleCub field before it is about Canada, and the previous edition had that the wrong way round. Google ratings reach our dataset through a matching step, and we have matched only 9,252 of the 19,569 programmes in the seven enriched provinces — 47%. Of the ones we did match, 5,991 (65%) carry a rating, and 132,162 parent reviews sit behind them. The national 31.8% "with a Google rating" is therefore a *floor*: it is what we have found, not what exists.

In three provinces the two numbers are the same number. We hold a Google place record for 18.1% of British Columbia's listings, 6.5% of Saskatchewan's and 20.5% of Manitoba's — and essentially every listing we matched carries a rating (98.5% in British Columbia). Publishing "18% of British Columbia's programmes have a Google rating" would be publishing our own queue depth with a province's name on it. The previous edition set eight provinces side by side on that column and drew a conclusion from the spread. The spread was mostly ours. This edition does not do that.

When we will make a claim about a province. With match coverage m and a rated-among-matched share r , a province's true rated share lies between $m \cdot r$ and $m \cdot r + (1 - m)$. The width of that interval is the part of the province we never looked at. We state a finding about the sector only where that interval is under 40 points wide — match coverage of at least 60%. That is the New Brunswick rule, applied to everyone instead of to one province. Three provinces clear it: Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia.

The finding that survives is Nova Scotia's, and it is the one worth leading with. We matched 231 of its 348 programmes (66.4%), and only 17 of those (7.4%) carry a rating. Even if every listing we never matched turned out to be rated, Nova Scotia would top out at 38.5% — still below the floor of Quebec's range (50.0% to 60.7%). In Nova Scotia the market signal parents lean on for restaurants genuinely is not there, and registry data has to carry weight it does not carry elsewhere.

Websites behave differently. A website can reach us from a registry field or from our own harvest, so it is not capped by the Google match: 2,613 listings across the seven provinces carry a website on a row we never matched. It is still *conditioned* by it. Read live on 2026-08-11, 62.2% of matched listings carried a website against 25.3% of unmatched ones. So the published 7,747 (40%) is a floor as well, and a frozen one: it is the quarterly snapshot figure, while the live column stood at 8,369 at that read and keeps rising as the harvest runs.

New Brunswick is excluded from every figure in this section. Its 947 programmes entered the dataset on 2026-08-09 and have not been matched to Google presence data yet, so the denominator here is the 19,569 programmes in the other seven provinces (20,516 minus 947). Reporting New Brunswick as 0% website coverage would describe the state of our matching queue rather than the state of the province — and the paragraphs above are that same sentence, extended to every province it applies to.

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10 (n = 19,569). seven-province presence denominator; website counts are frozen to the 2026Q3 metric_snapshots value because the website-harvest process runs continuously between editions.

Province snapshots

British Columbia has 5,702 licensed programmes for 216,910 children under five — 26.3 per 1,000, rank 2 of eight. 61 of its 215 communities (28%) have exactly one licensed option, and 35.9% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: not published. Price position in 2026: \$10/day floor, no ceiling.

Ontario has 4,374 licensed programmes for 720,586 children under five — 6.1 per 1,000, rank 8 of eight. 271 of its 555 communities (49%) have exactly one licensed option, and 34.0% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: not published. Price position in 2026: \$22/day cap.

Quebec has 3,774 licensed programmes for 411,925 children under five — 9.2 per 1,000, rank 6 of eight. 297 of its 547 communities (54%) have exactly one licensed option, and 36.2% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: 237,634 spaces. Price position in 2026: \$9.65/day.

Alberta has 2,912 licensed programmes for 262,923 children under five — 11.1 per 1,000, rank 5 of eight. 108 of its 239 communities (45%) have exactly one licensed option, and 63.9% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: 222,932 spaces. Price position in 2026: ≈\$15/day.

Saskatchewan has 1,320 licensed programmes for 68,675 children under five — 19.2 per 1,000, rank 3 of eight. 127 of its 176 communities (72%) have exactly one licensed option, and 75.9% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: not published. Price position in 2026: \$10/day.

Manitoba has 1,139 licensed programmes for 80,298 children under five — 14.2 per 1,000, rank 4 of eight. 69 of its 160 communities (43%) have exactly one licensed option, and 65.6% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: not published. Price position in 2026: \$10/day.

New Brunswick has 947 licensed programmes for 34,230 children under five — 27.7 per 1,000, rank 1 of eight. 73 of its 166 communities (44%) have exactly one licensed option, and 43.7% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: not published. Price position in 2026: \$16–\$19/day.

Nova Scotia has 348 licensed programmes for 41,311 children under five — 8.4 per 1,000, rank 7 of eight. 68 of its 117 communities (58%) have exactly one licensed option, and 41.4% of its programmes sit in five cities. Published licensed capacity: 19,216 spaces. Price position in 2026: not at \$10/day.

Table 3 — Communities, concentration, published capacity and Google-match coverage by province, 2026

Province	Communities	One-option	In top 5 cities	Published capacity	Matched by MapleCub	Rated among matched
British Columbia	215	61 (28%)	35.9%	not published	1,031 (18.1%)	98.5%
Ontario	555	271 (49%)	34.0%	not published	1,996 (45.6%)	99.9%
Quebec	547	297 (54%)	36.2%	237,634	3,370 (89.3%)	53.0%
Alberta	239	108 (45%)	63.9%	222,932	2,305 (79.2%)	37.4%
Saskatchewan	176	127 (72%)	75.9%	not published	86 (6.5%)	98.8%
Manitoba	160	69 (43%)	65.6%	not published	233 (20.5%)	99.6%
New Brunswick	166	73 (44%)	43.7%	not published	not yet matched	—
Nova Scotia	117	68 (58%)	41.4%	19,216	231 (66.4%)	7.4%
All eight provinces	2,175	1,074 (49.4%)		479,782	9,252 (47%)	65%

The last two columns are MapleCub coverage fields, not province characteristics. "Matched by MapleCub" is the share of that province's listings we hold a Google place record for; "rated among matched" is the share of those that carry a rating. The provinces are deliberately not ranked on either: below 60% match coverage the unobserved remainder is larger than anything the column could show. Only Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia clear that floor.

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. Google-match coverage read 2026-08-11; New Brunswick has not been through the matching step; capacity is published open data only.

Quebec deserves one more number: 2,788 of its 3,774 listed installations (74%) are subsidized (subventionné), the reduced-contribution network where parents pay \$9.65/day in 2026. The remaining quarter operate at market rates offset by Quebec's refundable tax credit. New Brunswick has an equivalent split: 641 of its 947 facilities (68%) are designated under the provincial Parent Fee Grid.

Methodology, limits and how to cite

Programme counts, provider types, locations, capacity and inspection figures were computed on 2026-08-10 from MapleCub's dataset, which is built from the eight provincial licensing registries, carried through with the registry identifier each record was ingested with, and deduplicated (290 duplicate records identified and merged in the July 2026 dedup pass, excluded from every figure in this report). A community means a normalized city name: lower-cased, trimmed, non-empty, so that case variants in the Manitoba and Saskatchewan registries do not count twice. Google presence signals (ratings, review counts, websites) were matched conservatively, requiring name agreement, so they undercount rather than overcount — and because they undercount by different amounts in different provinces, they are published as match coverage rather than as a province ranking; New Brunswick has not been through that matching step and is excluded from those figures. Child population denominators are Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01 (July 1, 2025 estimates).

What "geocoded" means here

20,481 of 20,516 records (99.8%) carry a coordinate. That is the easy half of the sentence. Of those, 9,400 (45.9%) are address-level and 11,081 (54.1%) are the centroid of a postal district or a city. We call a point a centroid when more than 3 visible listings on one identical lat/lng, resolving to more than 1 distinct street address; one address with several licences on it is a building, several addresses on one point are not. Coordinates are address-level in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta — Alberta except in its two biggest cities — and a postal-district centroid in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Manitoba. Saskatchewan's S0K resolves 57 listings in 27 separate towns to one point;

Alberta pins 314 Calgary listings and 256 Edmonton listings to one point each. An earlier edition said only that "a small number of Manitoba records geocode to a municipal centroid," which understated the number by four orders of magnitude and named the wrong province. No count in this report is computed from coordinates; the one analysis that uses them runs only in the four address-level provinces, and says so.

Table 4 — Address-level versus centroid coordinates by province, 2026

Province	With a coordinate	Distinct points	Address-level	Centroid
British Columbia	5,702	5,523	5,680 (99.6%)	22
Ontario	4,374	497	202 (4.6%)	4,172
Quebec	3,774	410	178 (4.7%)	3,596
Alberta	2,912	1,858	2,001 (68.7%)	911
Saskatchewan	1,320	43	6 (0.5%)	1,314
Manitoba	1,104	89	43 (3.9%)	1,061
New Brunswick	947	746	942 (99.5%)	5
Nova Scotia	348	337	348 (100.0%)	0
All eight provinces	20,481		9,400 (45.9%)	11,081

Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset, computed 2026-08-10. geocoding split computed 2026-08-11, two SQL shapes.

Sourcing rule. Every external claim in this report is cited to the government page it came from, with the date we fetched it, in the Sources appendix. Figures computed from MapleCub's own dataset are not cited to anyone else: they carry the "Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset" line and the CSV instead, and they are ours to defend. Inspection and enforcement counts are published as dated extracts with the publisher's own refresh cycle stated, because re-downloading those files today will not reproduce our numbers. Sources were last audited 2026-08-11; 2 of 35 registry entries could not be verified against a live fetch and are marked UNVERIFIED in the appendix.

Known limitations

- Registries differ in scope (individually licensed homes versus agency-based home care), so cross-province programme counts are not space counts.
- Alberta's published capacity includes school-age care while Quebec's is early-childhood only, so we do not compute cross-province coverage ratios.
- Nova Scotia's published capacity covers 334 of our 348 NS listings, not all of them.
- "Geocoded" is not a precision measure: 54.1% of the coordinates in this dataset are a postal-district or municipal centroid rather than a street address, concentrated in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Manitoba.
- Manitoba is the only province with listings carrying no coordinate at all (1,104 of 1,139) — a separate and much smaller problem than the centroid split above, and naming only Manitoba here used to read as though the other seven were fine; eight Saskatchewan and 47 Manitoba rows carry no city value and sit outside the community counts, and 35 of those 47 Manitoba rows carry no coordinates either. A 2026-08-10 repair merged registry abbreviations such as "Wpg" into their proper communities wherever the community was determinable; the 12 that stayed unrecoverable were set to null and are part of the 47.
- New Brunswick is excluded from every Google-presence figure and from the presence denominator of 19,569; its 947 programmes have not been matched yet, and publishing them as zeroes would report

the state of our queue as a finding about the province.

- A "community" is a normalized registry city name, not a census subdivision and not a travel-time catchment. It cannot see a family who drives to the next town, and it splits a town the registry spells two ways.
- Quebec's below-\$10 status is dated: the province's own 2026-2027 budgetary rules raise the reduced contribution to \$10.60/day on January 1, 2027.
- Website counts move between editions: the website-discovery process runs continuously, so the published figure is frozen to the quarterly metric_snapshots value (7,747) and the live directory shows more — 8,369 when it was read on 2026-08-11.
- Google ratings are bounded by our own matching: we hold a place record for 47% of the seven-province denominator, so the published rated share is a floor and the provinces are not ranked on it. A claim about a province's sector is made only above 60% match coverage — Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia.
- The per-1,000 rate counts programmes of every type against a 0–4 denominator. Where a registry publishes age bands we can identify 1,020 school-age-only programmes, but age bands are known for every row in Quebec and New Brunswick and roughly one row in six in British Columbia, Ontario and Saskatchewan, so the exclusion is shown beside the headline and ranked nowhere.
- The named list of one-option communities publishes 1,031 of the 1,074 counted here: 43 are registry spelling or punctuation variants of a city that already holds other licensed programmes. On that cleaner definition the share is 48.4% rather than 49.4%.

How to cite this report

MapleCub, "The State of Licensed Child Care in Canada, 2026," 2026-08-10 edition.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21909631>

That DOI always resolves to the newest edition. To pin a figure to this edition specifically, cite <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21909632>. <https://www.maplecub.ca/research/state-of-child-care-2026> stays the canonical home.

First published 2026-07-07; this edition 2026-08-10, adding New Brunswick. Dataset queried 2026-08-10; fee rules verified 2026-07-05; sources audited 2026-08-11. Licensed CC BY 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) — free to reuse, including commercially, with attribution.

Machine-readable versions of every figure in this report: CSV [maplecub.ca/data/state-of-child-care-2026.csv](https://www.maplecub.ca/data/state-of-child-care-2026.csv) · JSON [maplecub.ca/data/state-of-child-care-2026.json](https://www.maplecub.ca/data/state-of-child-care-2026.json) · this PDF [maplecub.ca/data/state-of-child-care-2026.pdf](https://www.maplecub.ca/data/state-of-child-care-2026.pdf). Media enquiries: hello@maplecub.ca. More open data: [maplecub.ca/research](https://www.maplecub.ca/research).

Sources

Every external claim in this report — every dollar figure, every inspection count, every published rule — is cited to the government page it came from, with the date we fetched it. This is the whole registry: 35 entries, listed in citation order. Sources were audited 2026-08-11. Figures computed from MapleCub's own dataset are not in here: they carry the "Source: MapleCub Canadian Childcare Dataset" line and the CSV instead, and they are ours to defend. A dagger (†) marks the 5 entries that need a caveat — either the source has moved on since our figure was computed, or we could not open the page ourselves and have said so. The reason is printed with the entry.

1. Statistics Canada · *Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1, by age and gender* [CA]

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-07-01 · source current as of 2025-09-24 · **verified**

2. Ministère de la Famille (Québec), via Données Québec · *Liste des centres de la petite enfance (CPE), garderies et bureaux coordonnateurs en fonction* [QC]

<https://www.donneesquebec.ca/recherche/dataset/liste-des-centres-de-la-petite-enfance-cpe-et-des-garderies-en-fonction>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-08-05 · source current as of 2026-08-05 · **verified**

3†. Government of Alberta — Open Government Program · *Child Care Information [2021 to current]* [AB]

<https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/childcareinformation>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · source current as of 2026-08-11 · **verified** · **source has moved on since our figure was computed**

† Source has moved on since our figure was computed. Our number is published as a dated extract, not as the current record.

4†. Open Data Nova Scotia — Department of Education and Early Childhood Development · *Child Care Directory* [NS]

<https://data.novascotia.ca/api/views/3j9v-yimg.json>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-06-30 · source current as of 2026-06-30 · **verified** · **source has moved on since our figure was computed**

† Source has moved on since our figure was computed. Our number is published as a dated extract, not as the current record.

5. Gouvernement du Québec (Ministère de la Famille) · *Educational childcare rates* [QC]

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/childhood/childcare-centres/costs>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-01-01 · source current as of 2025-11-03 · **verified**

6. Ministère de la Famille (Québec) · *Règles budgétaires 2026-2027 – Centres de la petite enfance — Faits saillants* [QC]

https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/famille/publications-adm/Service_de_garde/finance/FS-RB-CPE-2026-2027.pdf

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-04-01 · source current as of 2027-01-01 · **verified**

7. Province of Manitoba — Education and Early Childhood Learning · *Child Care Fees* [MB]

https://www.gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/childcare_fees.html

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2024-12-08 · source current as of 2024-12-08 · **verified**

8. Government of Saskatchewan — Education · *Child Care Updates* [SK]

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/child-care-updates>

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9. Government of Alberta — Education and Childcare · *Childcare fees* [AB]

<https://www.alberta.ca/childcare-fees>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-04-01 · source current as of 2026-03-02 · **verified**

10. Government of New Brunswick — Education and Early Childhood Development · Information for families — Parent fee grid (reduced parent fees) [NB]

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/investing-in-early-learning-and-child-care/information-for-families.html>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-05-01 · source current as of 2026-05-21 · **verified**

11. Government of Ontario — Ministry of Education · Canada-Ontario early learning and child care agreement [ON]

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/canada-ontario-early-years-and-child-care-agreement>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-01-01 · source current as of 2025-11-18 · **verified**

12. Employment and Social Development Canada · Canada and Ontario agree to one-year extension of the Canada-wide early learning and child care agreement [ON]

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2025/12/canada-and-ontario-agree-to-one-year-extension-of-the-canada-wide-early-learning-and-child-care-agreement.html>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-12-04 · source current as of 2025-12-04 · **verified**

13. Province of British Columbia — Ministry of Education and Child Care · Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative — Information for families [BC]

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/childcarebc-programs/child-care-fee-reduction-initiative-provider-opt-in-status/information-for-families>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-04-01 · source current as of 2026-07-21 · **verified**

14. Government of Nova Scotia — Department of Education and Early Childhood Development · How it works: 50 per cent fee reduction [NS]

<https://childcarenovascotia.ca/families/50-percent-fee-reduction>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2022-12-31 · source current as of 2022-12-31 · **verified**

15. Ministère de la Famille (Québec) · Registre des pénalités administratives — 1er juillet 2025 au 30 septembre 2025 [QC]

https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/famille/publications-adm/Service_de_garde/conformite/24-Registre-PA-WEB-Du-2025-07-01-Au-2025-09-30.pdf

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16. Éditeur officiel du Québec (LégisQuébec) · Règlement sur la contribution réduite, chapitre S-4.1.1, r. 1 [QC]

<https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/document/rc/S-4.1.1,%20r.%201>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-01-01 · source current as of 2026-04-01 · **verified**

17. Gouvernement du Québec (Ministère de la Famille) · Documents financiers et reddition de comptes pour les services de garde [QC]

<https://www.quebec.ca/famille-et-soutien-aux-personnes/enfance/gardereries-et-services-de-garde/reseau/gestion/gestion-finances/documents-financiers-reddition-compte>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-04-01 · source current as of 2026-07-20 · **verified**

18. Government of Saskatchewan — Education · Child Care Updates — Changes Under the Extension Agreement [SK]

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/child-care-updates>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-04-01 · source current as of 2026-04-01 · **verified**

19. Government of Saskatchewan — Education · Child Care Updates — Standard hours of care [SK]

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/child-care-updates>

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20. Province of Manitoba — Education and Early Childhood Learning · Child Care Fees — finding a funded facility [MB]

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21. Province of Manitoba — Education and Early Childhood Learning · \$10 a Day Child Care [MB]

https://www.gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/families/10_dollar_a_day.html

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2024-12-08 · source current as of 2026-08-11 · **verified**

22. Province of British Columbia — Ministry of Education and Child Care · *Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative — Information for families* [BC]

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/childcarebc-programs/child-care-fee-reduction-initiative-provider-opt-in-status/information-for-families>

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23. Government of New Brunswick — Education and Early Childhood Development · *Childcare financial assistance* [NB]

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24. Employment and Social Development Canada · *Canada and Ontario agree to one-year extension of the Canada-wide early learning and child care agreement — Quick facts* [CA]

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2025/12/canada-and-ontario-agree-to-one-year-extension-of-the-canada-wide-early-learning-and-child-care-agreement.html>

Fetchd 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-12-04 · source current as of 2025-12-04 · **verified**

25†. Province of British Columbia — BC Data Catalogue · *Child Care Map Data* [BC]

<https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/child-care-map-data>

Fetchd 2026-08-11 · **UNVERIFIED**

† Not verified: this page could not be opened on 2026-08-11 from our environment, so the claim it supports is stated in its narrowest form and flagged in the text.

26†. Gouvernement du Québec (Ministère de la Famille) · *Inspection de conformité législative et réglementaire en services de garde* [QC]

<https://www.quebec.ca/famille-et-soutien-aux-personnes/enfance/gardereries-et-services-de-garde/reseau/responsabilites/conformite-inspections/conformite>

Fetchd 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-03-31 · source current as of 2026-08-05 · **verified** · **source has moved on since our figure was computed**

† Source has moved on since our figure was computed. Our number is published as a dated extract, not as the current record.

27. Gouvernement du Québec (Ministère de la Famille) · *Inspection de conformité législative et réglementaire en services de garde — Résultats d'inspection* [QC]

<https://www.quebec.ca/famille-et-soutien-aux-personnes/enfance/gardereries-et-services-de-garde/reseau/responsabilites/conformite-inspections/conformite>

Fetchd 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-08-05 · source current as of 2026-08-05 · **verified**

28. Government of New Brunswick — Education and Early Childhood Development · *Early Learning and Childcare Facility Inspection Reports* [NB]

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Fetchd 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-03-03 · source current as of 2025-03-03 · **verified**

29. Province of British Columbia — Ministry of Health · *Licensed child care facility inspection reports* [BC]

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Fetchd 2026-08-11 · effective 2026-04-08 · source current as of 2026-04-08 · **verified**

30. Government of Ontario — Ministry of Education · *Consequences for breaking child care rules* [ON]

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Fetchd 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-06-26 · source current as of 2025-06-26 · **verified**

31. Government of Ontario — Ministry of Education · *Compliance of licensed child care facilities with licensing requirements* [ON]

<https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/compliance-of-licensed-child-care-facilities-with-licensing-requirements>

Fetchd 2026-08-11 · source current as of 2017-02-22 · **verified**

32. Government of Ontario — Ministry of Education · *Serious incidents in licensed child care facilities* [ON]

<https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/serious-incidents-in-licensed-child-care-facilities>

Fetchd 2026-08-11 · source current as of 2017-02-22 · **verified**

33. Government of Ontario — Ministry of Education · *Licensed child care facilities in Ontario* [ON]

<https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/licensed-child-care-facilities-in-ontario>

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34. Government of Ontario — Ministry of Education · *Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2025* [ON]

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-early-years-and-child-care-annual-report-2025>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2025-03-31 · source current as of 2025-12-11 · **verified**

35†. Government of Nova Scotia — Department of Education and Early Childhood Development · *How it works: 50 per cent fee reduction — fee reduction table* [NS]

<https://childcarenovascotia.ca/families/50-percent-fee-reduction>

Fetches 2026-08-11 · effective 2022-12-31 · source current as of 2022-12-31 · **UNVERIFIED**

† Not verified: this page could not be opened on 2026-08-11 from our environment, so the claim it supports is stated in its narrowest form and flagged in the text.