

Supporting Resilience with Strong Public Policy

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Review of
TORONTO EARLY LEARNING
AND CHILD CARE SERVICES

THEIR UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO TORONTO'S EQUITY,
INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION GOALS

MARCH 2021



March 2021



June 2021

PERCENT OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL-OPERATED EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Province/ Territory	4-year-old Population	Percent Attending 4-year-old PreK		5-year-old Population	Percent Attending 5-year-old Kindergarten	
		Full Day Prekindergarten	Half Day Prekindergarten		Full day Kindergarten	Half day Kindergarten
NL ^a				4,690	97%	
PE ^a				1,616	94%	
NS ^b	8,850	52%		8,776	99%	
NB				7,333	100%	
QC ^c	90,703	10%		91,893	96%	
ON	147,823	87%		149,359	90%	
MB	17,566		15.3%	17,758		86%
SK	31,295 ^d		16%	15,720		91%
AB				54,999		65%
BC				47,633	98%	
NU				891	9%	81%
NT	629	88%		606	98%	
YT ^e	472		14%	487	89%	

a NL and PE's plans for Prekindergarten were put on hold due to pandemic

b NS Pre-Primary enrolment was 75% in 2021

c QC committed to full-day Prekindergarten by 2023

d SK population and Prekindergarten enrolment figures include 3- and 4-year-old children

e YT to begin full-day Early Kindergarten for 4-year-old children in 2021 school year.



PERCENT OF 2- TO 4-YEAR-OLDS REGULARLY ATTENDING A GROUP EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY

2017 • 2020



Numbers do not include children attending family day care.
 SK 2020 does not include children attending private/unregulated preschool.



JURISDICTIONS WHERE PUBLIC FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE IS CONDITIONAL ON INCLUDING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



01

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Early Years Centres only

02

MANITOBA

In all publicly funded child care programs

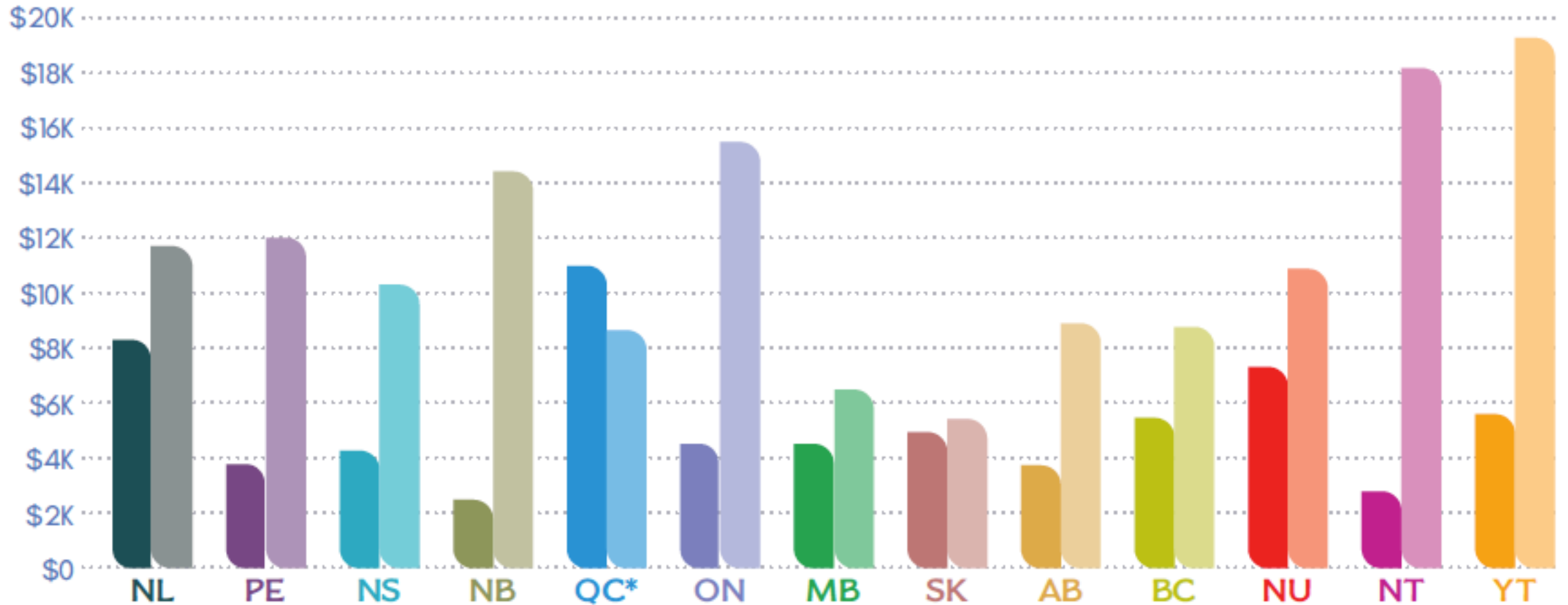
03

ALBERTA

Early Childhood Services programs only



OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER CHILD CARE SPACE AND PER CHILD IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Calculation based on most recent available enrolment figures.

*QC does not include school-age child care. Funding only reflects spending on spaces for children 0 to <5.





IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

How do the children and youth of Canada stand?

38

MENTAL HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
A striking number of children in Canada are unhappy:

OVERALL RANK:
31st

Almost 1 in 4 children has low life satisfaction.
CANADA RANK: 28th

Canada has one of the highest rates of adolescent suicide.
CANADA RANK: 35th

PHYSICAL HEALTH AND SURVIVAL
Canada is falling behind in fundamental aspects of child health:

OVERALL RANK:
30th

Canada's rate of infant mortality is 0.98 child deaths per 1,000 births.
CANADA RANK: 28th

Almost 1 in 3 children is overweight or obese.
CANADA RANK: 29th

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
Many young people in Canada get good grades, but school is not always a place of support and inclusion:

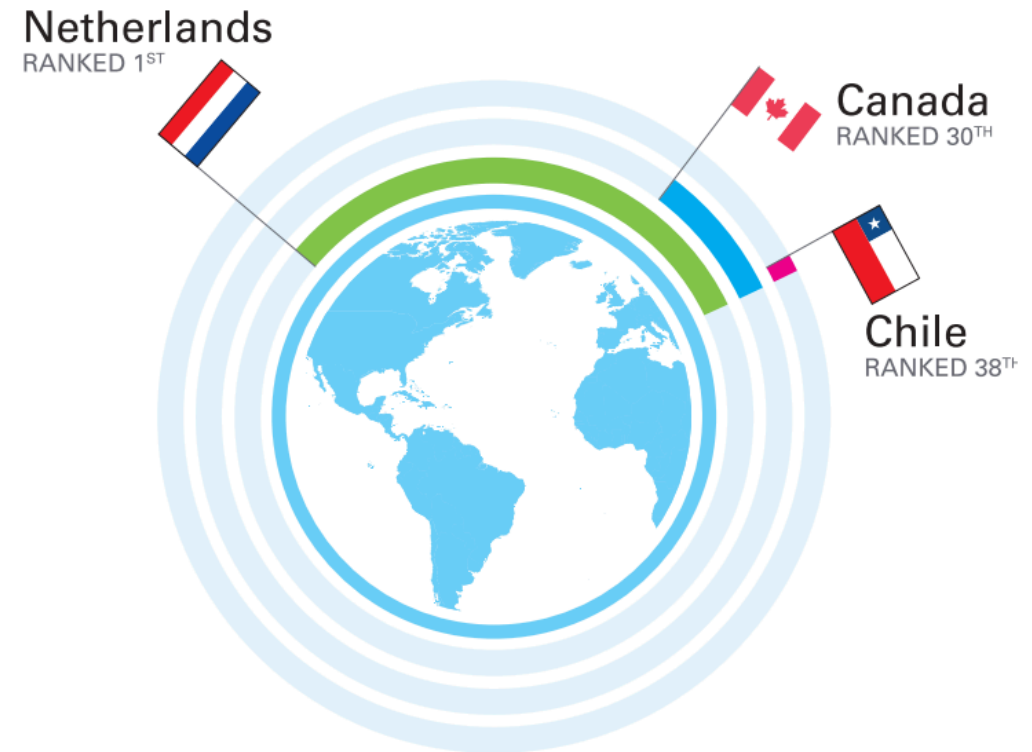
OVERALL RANK:
18th

Almost 1 in 3 young people does not have basic reading and math skills by age 15.
CANADA RANK: 13th

26% of young people have difficulty making friends.
CANADA RANK: 23rd

Canada was not doing well before COVID-19

UNICEF Report Card 16



Inequity Gaps are Growing

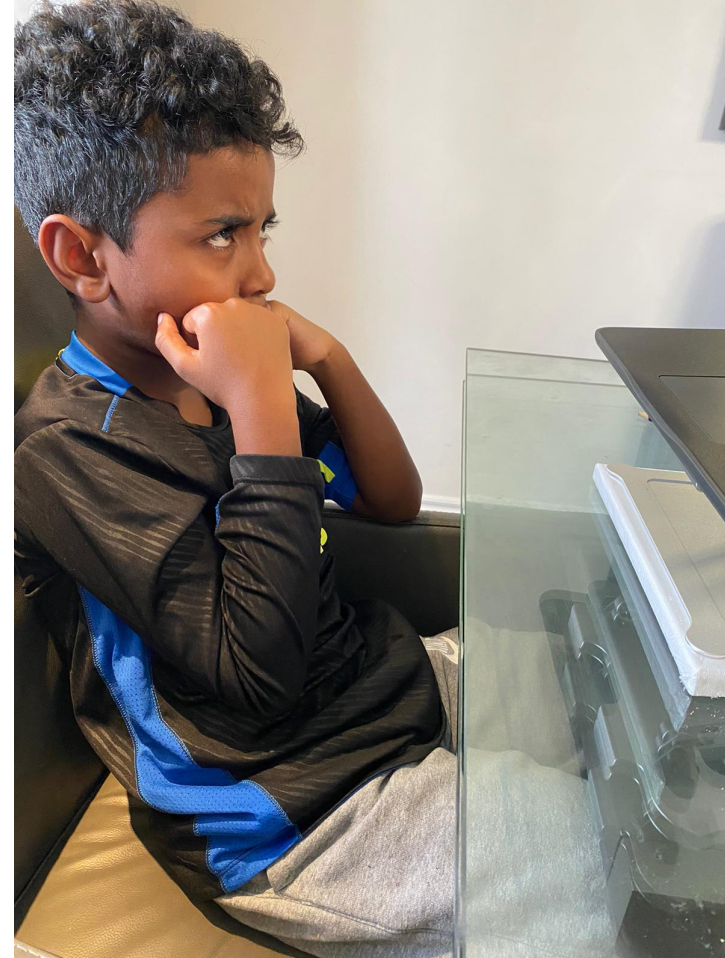
we need responsible equitable policies



Justin Wong, age 8, grade 3

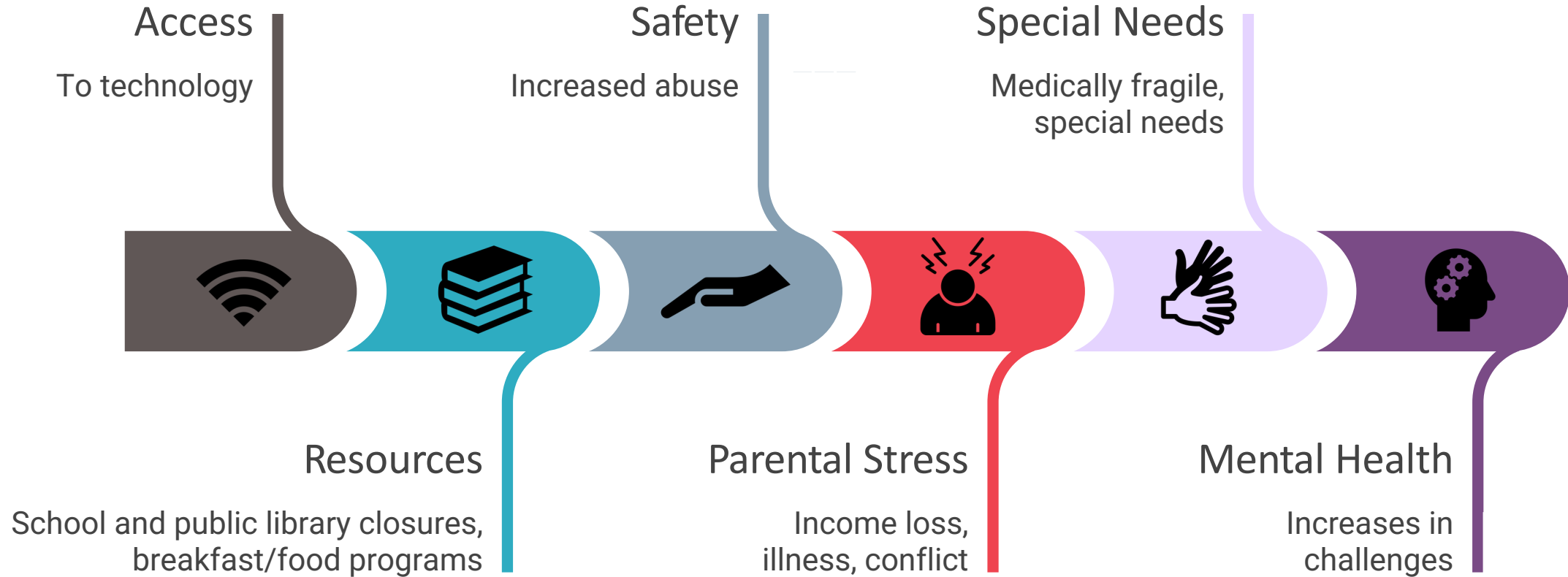
Inequity Gaps are Growing

we need responsible equitable responsive policies



Justin Wong, age 8, grade 3

What Families are Facing



The Impact of the Pandemic

differentially affects those that are vulnerable

Unequal social and economic burden of COVID-19 internationally
Including Canada

Social determinants of health: gender, SES, race/ethnicity,
occupation, indigeneity, homelessness, play important
roles in inequity of the impact of COVID-19

Long-lasting impact will be seen for decades

Responsive policies to COVID-19
may also be exacerbating inequities



TELCCS centres are unique in Canada

- Toronto Early Learning and Child Care Services (TELCCS) centres are directly operated by the City of Toronto.
- Their primary mandate is to provide high-quality inclusive programs, particularly for vulnerable and high-risk communities, where families often face multiple challenges.
- TELCCS centres strive to meet the needs of families by linking them to services and resources within their communities as required.



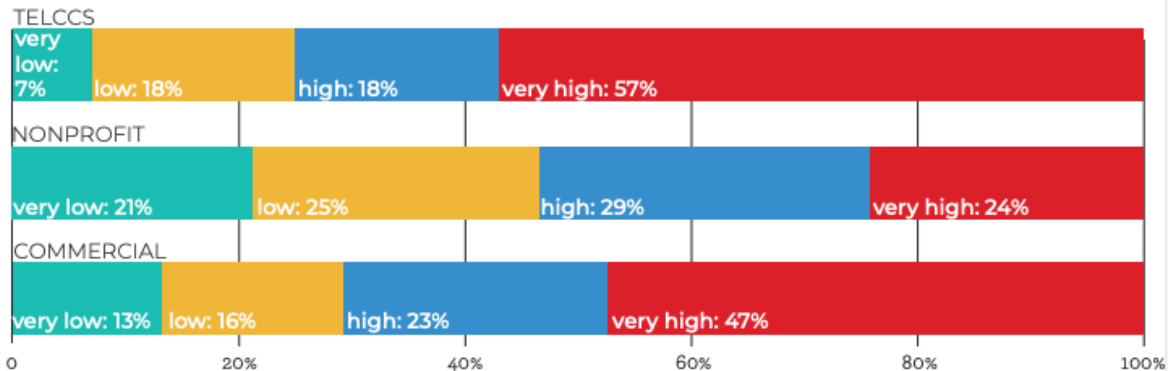
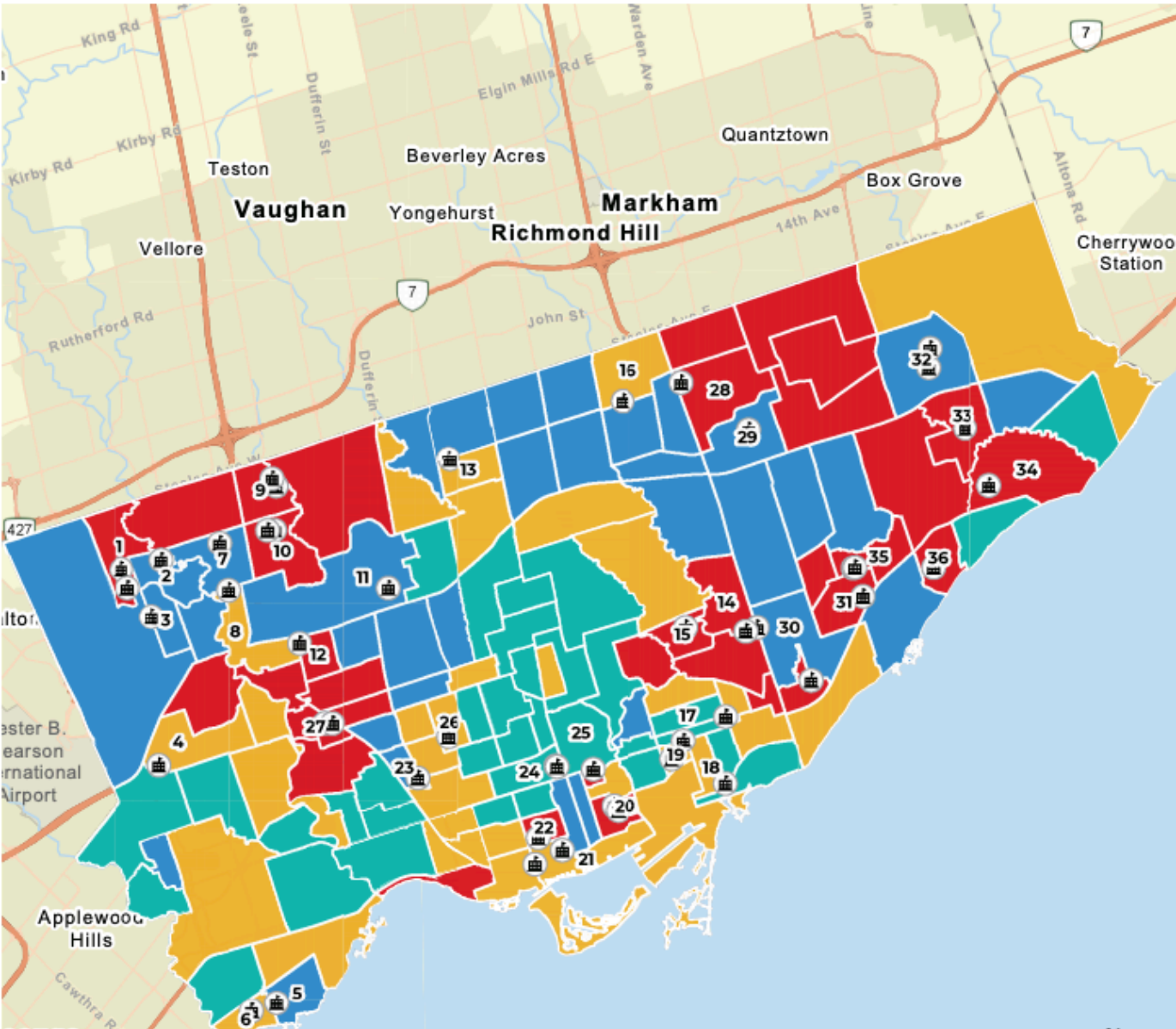
TELCCS centres are unique in Canada

- The 46 TELCCS centres have a capacity for 372 infants, 580 toddlers, 920 preschoolers, 189 kindergartener, and 245 school-age children
- TELCCS centres are geographically located in areas of Toronto that have higher rates of inequity.
- TELCCS are also more likely to be in areas with fewer child care centres. Non-profit and commercial child care centres are less likely to be in and remain viable in neighbourhoods with higher inequities and lower service levels.
- TELCCS are more likely to be located in purpose-built facilities. Studies suggest that quality is higher in environments constructed specifically for the care of young children

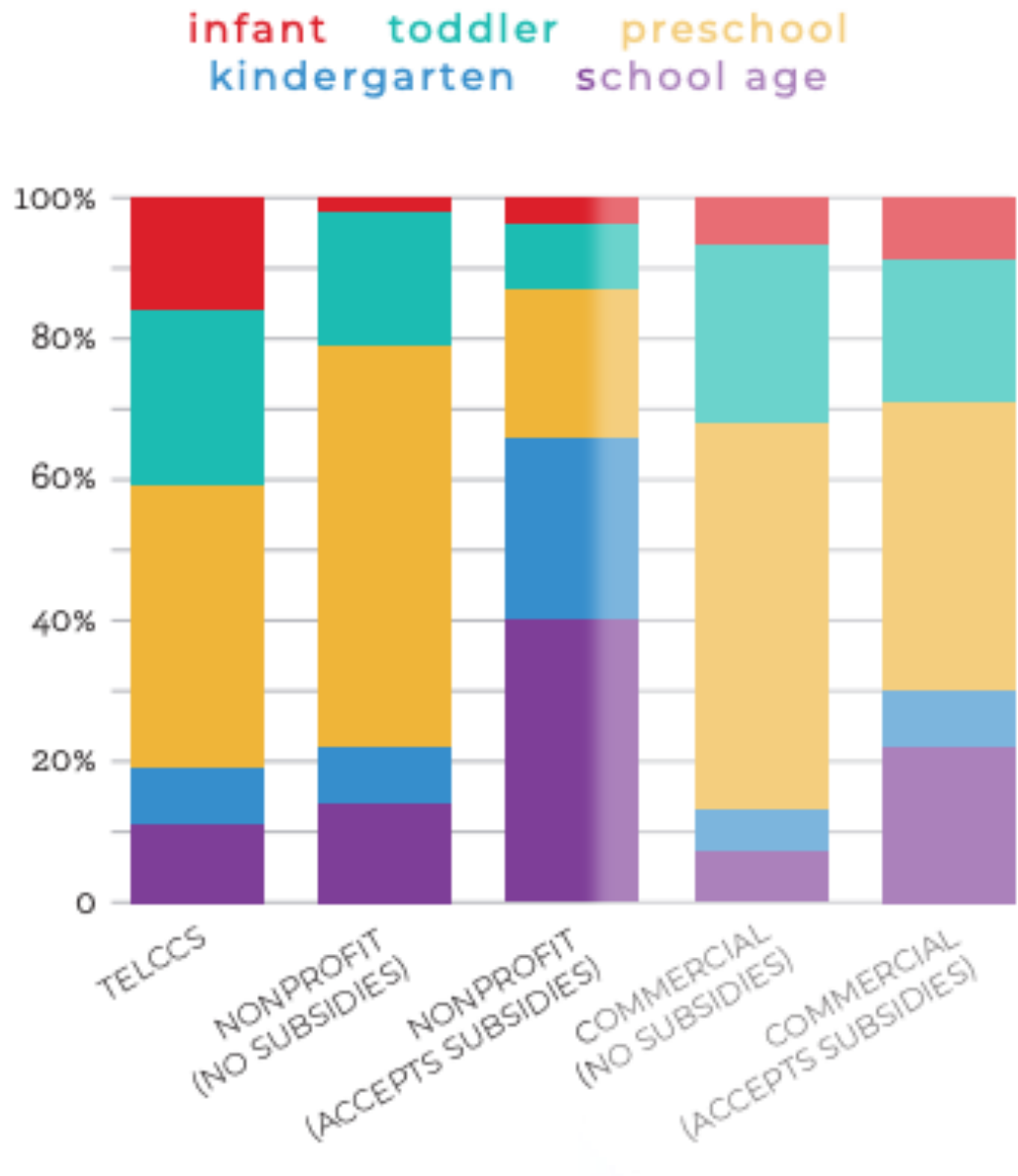


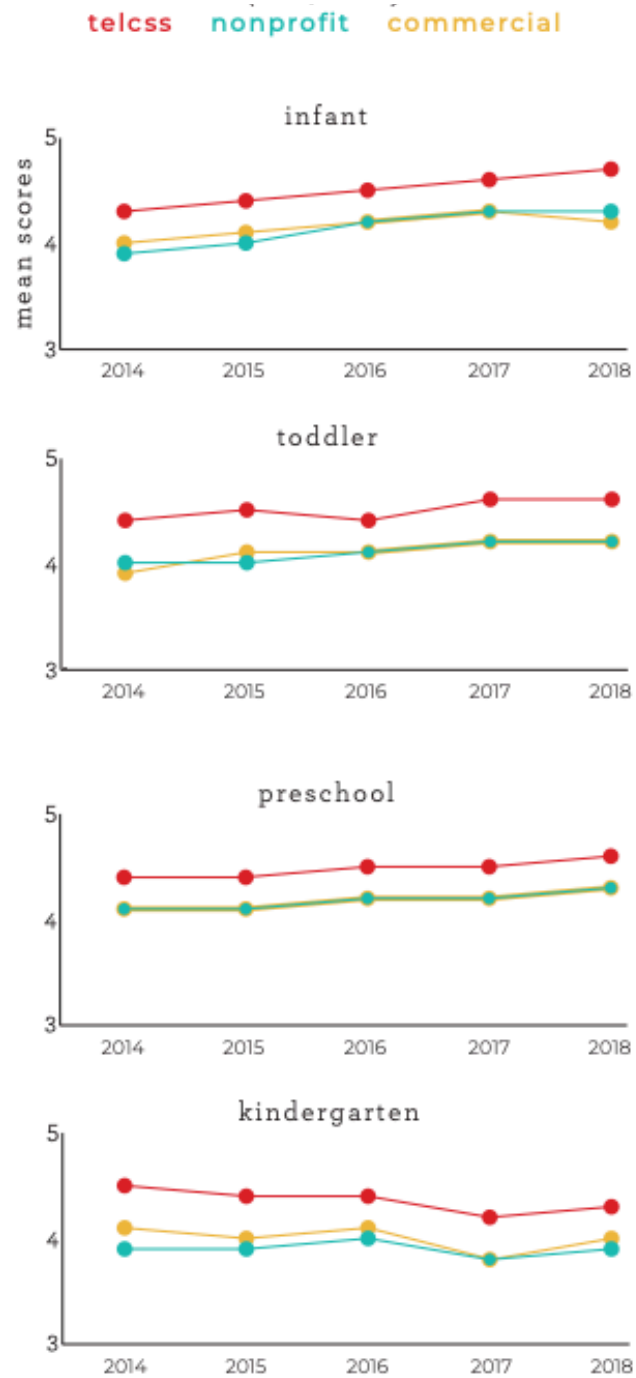
TELCSS CENTRES AND TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD INEQUITY LEVELS

very high
high
low
very low
 TELCCS Centre



TOTAL OPERATING CAPACITY BY CENTRE TYPE - TORONTO

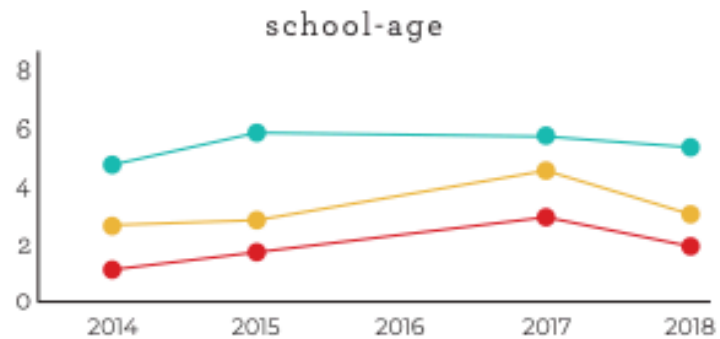
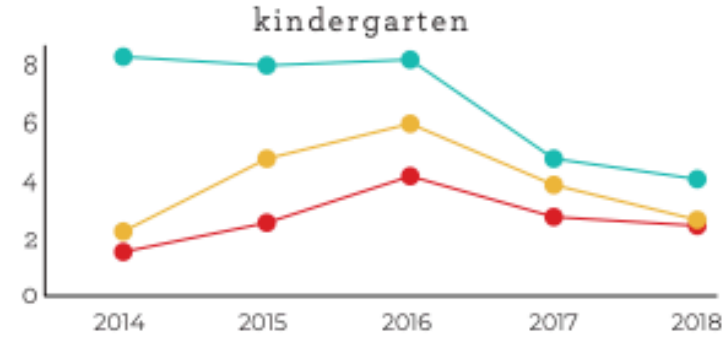
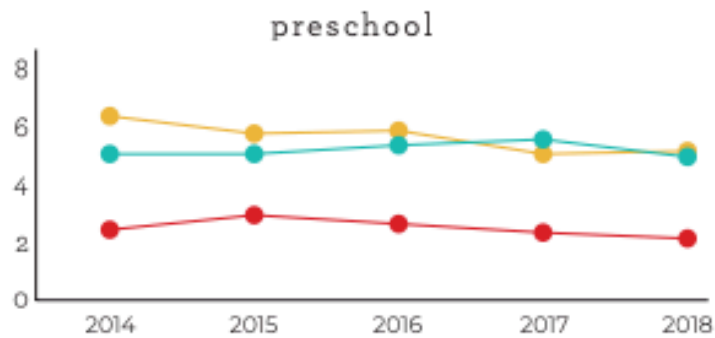
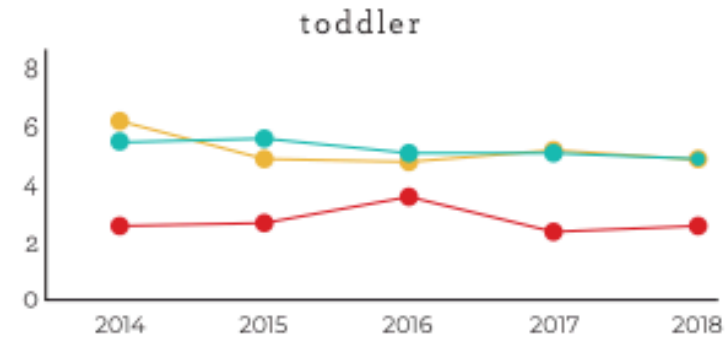
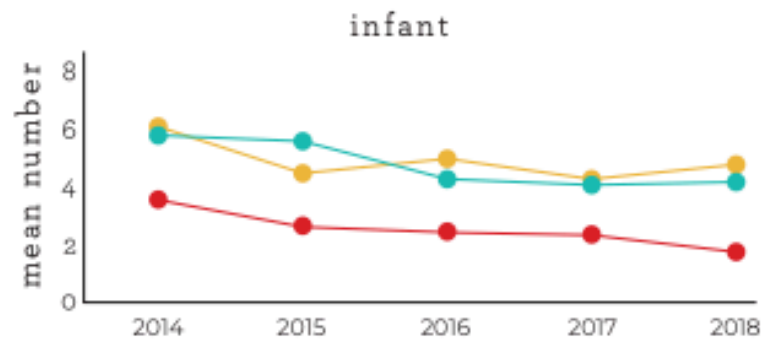




MEAN QUALITY RATING (AQI)
BY AGE GROUPS AND CENTRE TYPES

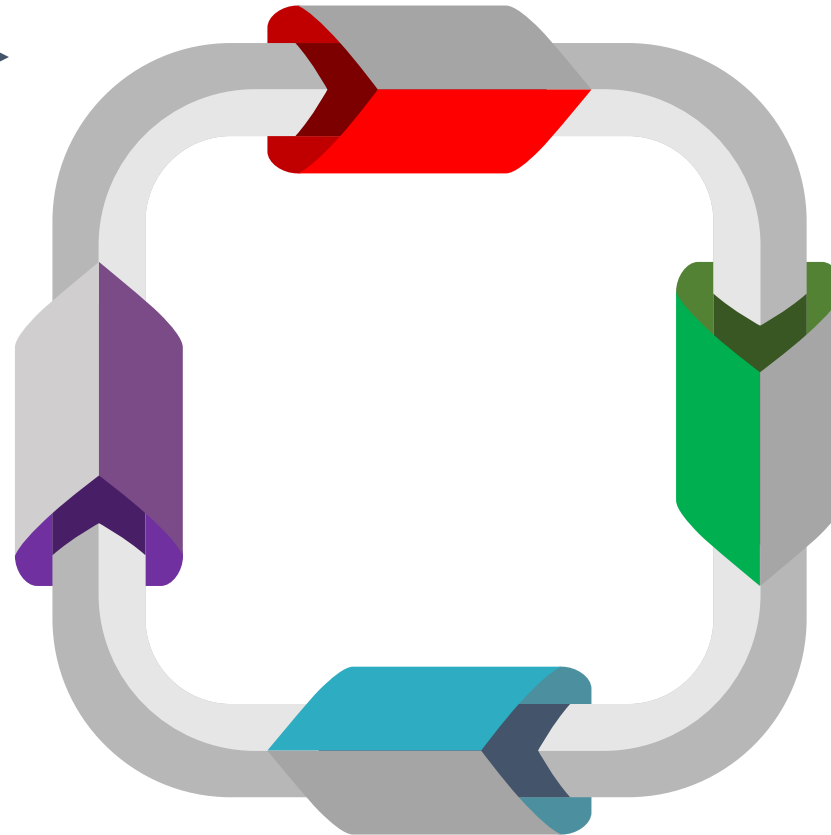
MEAN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF NON-COMPLIANCE IN AQI BY AGE GROUP AND CENTRE TYPE

telcss nonprofit commercial



BENEFITS OF A STRONG PUBLIC PRESENCE

TELCCS



Highly Trained Staff

All staff are registered with the CECE, surpassing legislative requirements. One-third of positions in ON centres **do not** meet minimum requirements.* Salaries on par with other City staff (non-STEM)

Visitation Program

TELCCS are part of the Attorney General's Office for Visitation Access Program

Serve Families Living in Poverty

One in three families severed by TELCCS have an annual income of \$10,000 or less

Part of City's Emergency Response Program

City partnerships include working with shelters, support & housing admin (SSHA), and provide support for families in crisis.

*provincially-commissioned study

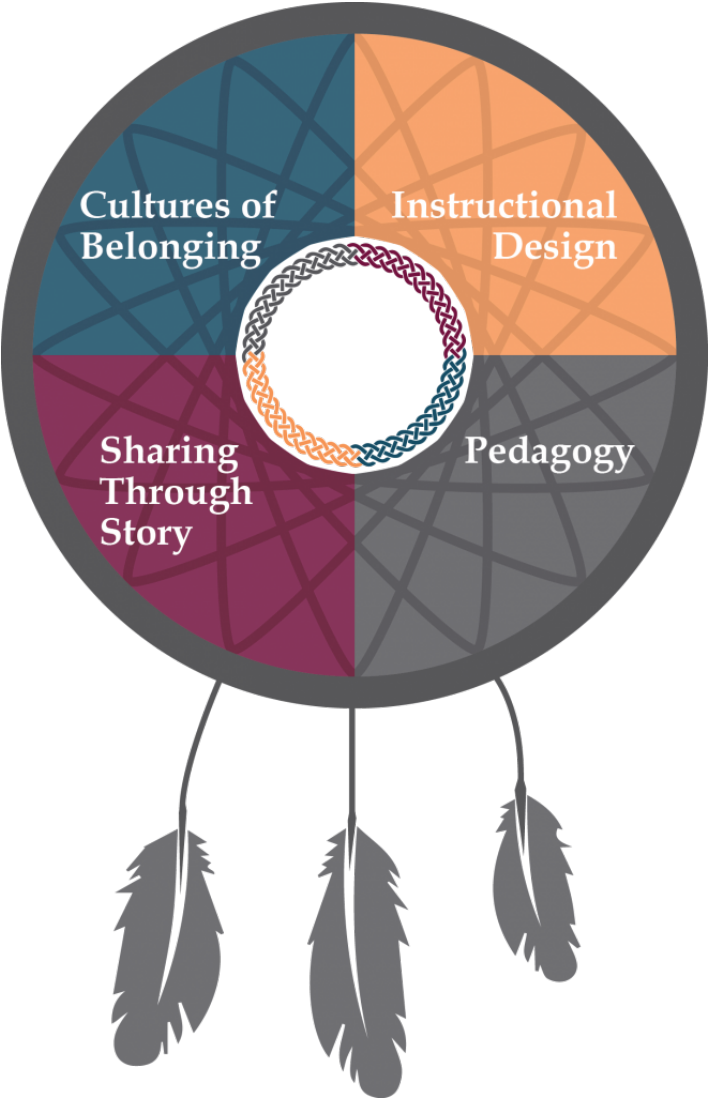
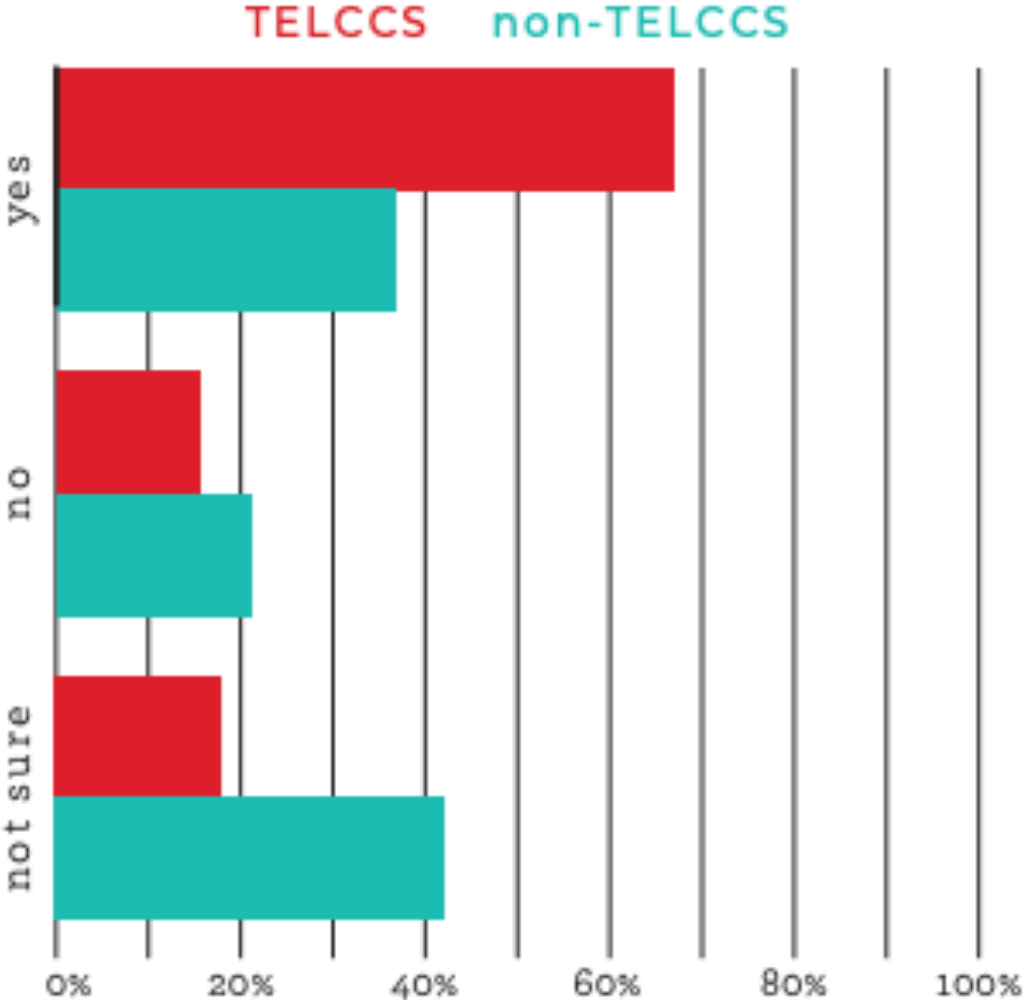


Professional development in TELCCS centres look very different than those of the community.

TELCCS: Anti-black racism reduction, supporting LGBTQ2 parents, supporting mental health and domestic violence, indigenous ways of knowing and being, language and language delays.

Community: Engaging parents, curriculum development, health and safety

INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING AND BEING



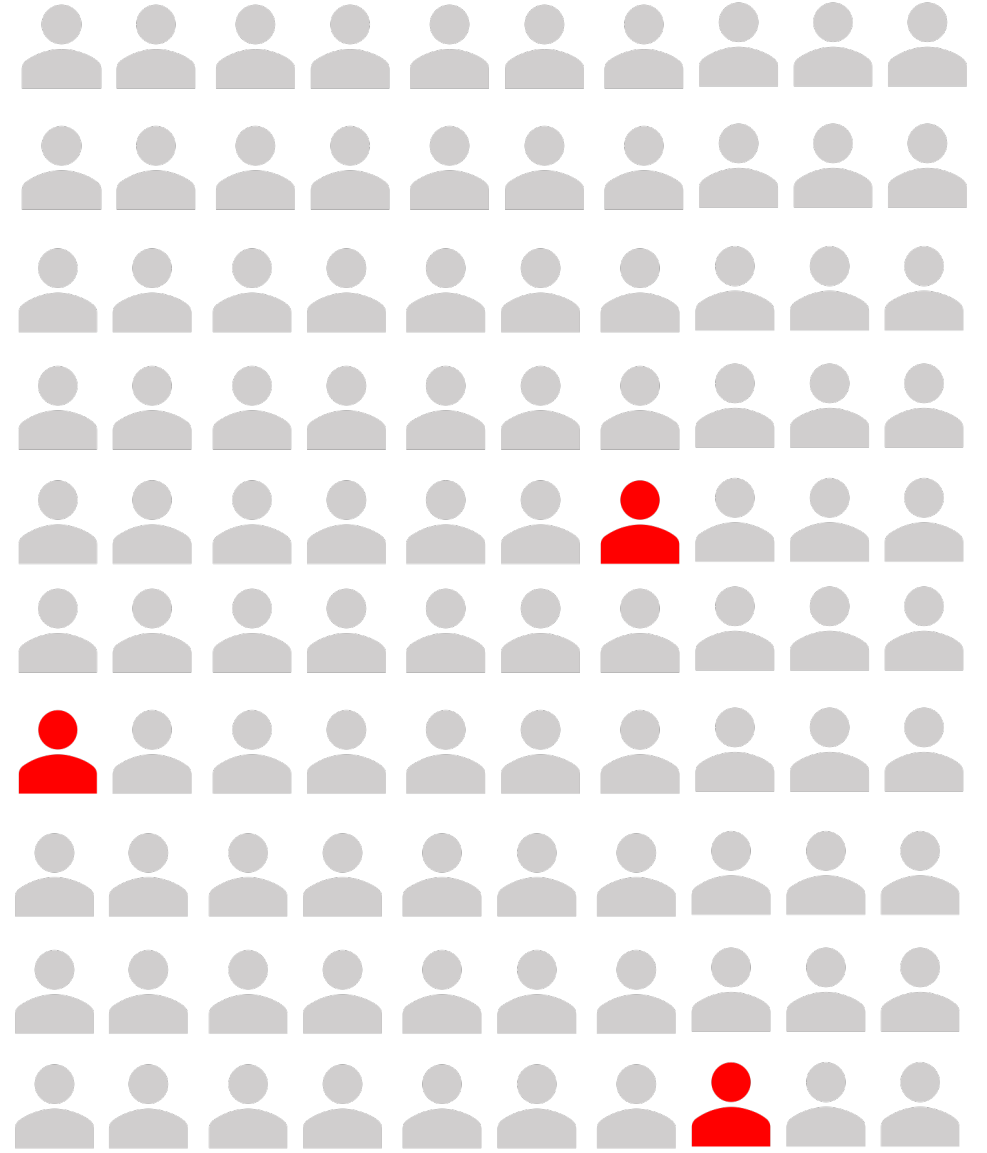
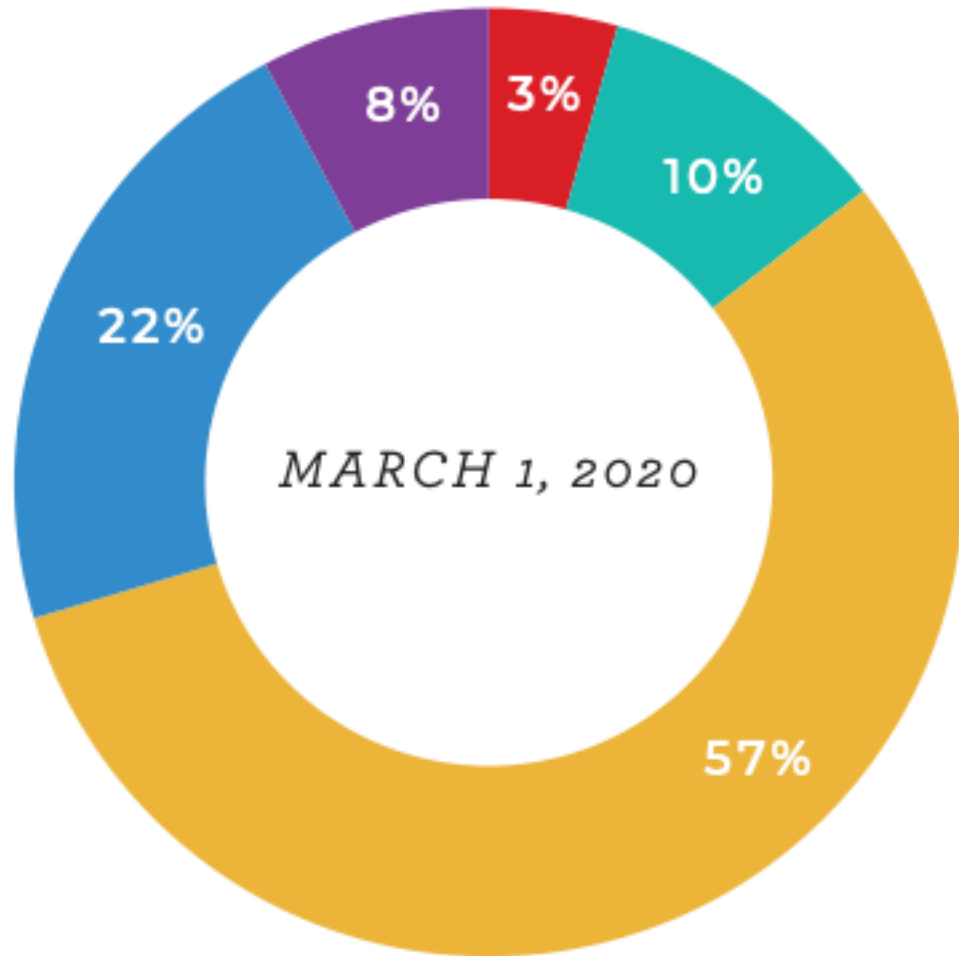
TELCCS

nonprofit (no subsidies)

nonprofit (accepts subsidies)

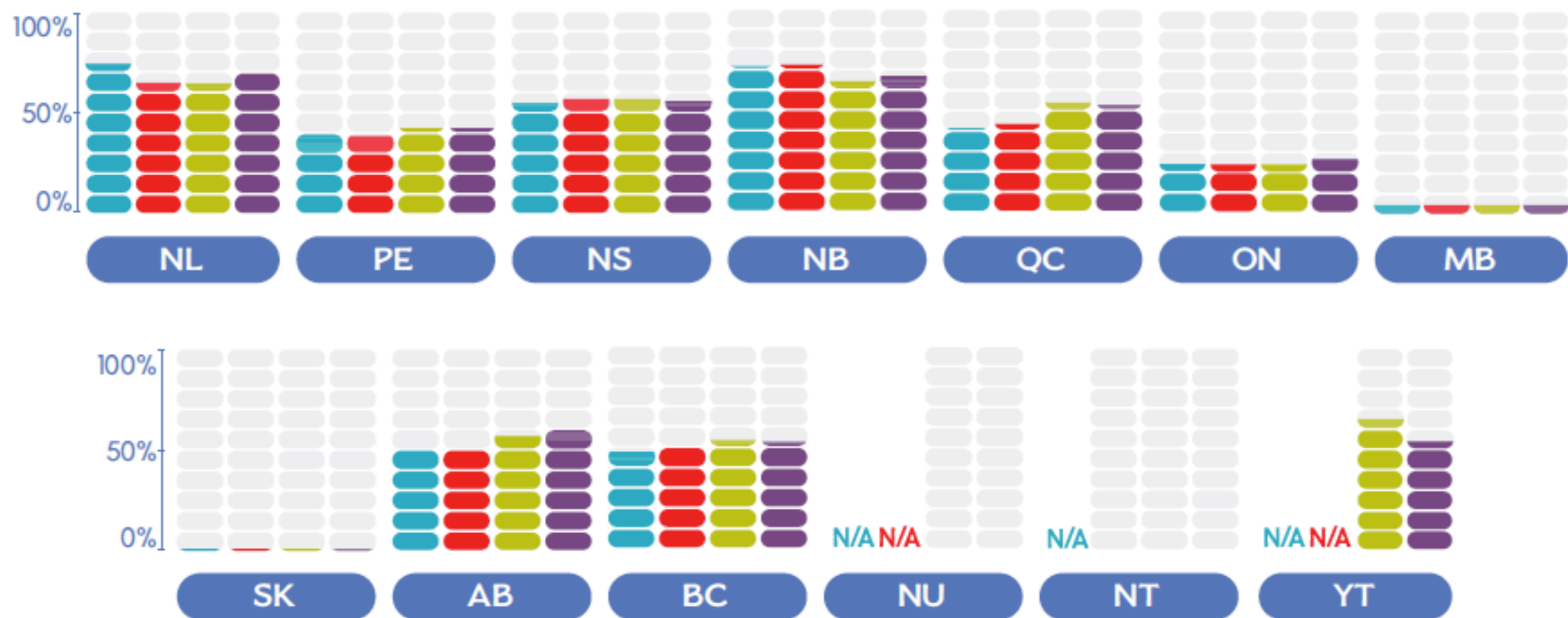
commercial (no subsidies)

commercial (accepts subsidies)



PERCENT OF FOR-PROFIT VS NON-PROFIT CHILD CARE BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY (0 TO 12 YEARS OF AGE)

2011 • 2014 • 2017 • 2020



SK, NU, and NT do not fund for-profit child care programs. QC figures do not include school-aged child care.

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, is sitting on a patterned rug in a classroom. He is holding a yellow marker and looking down at a book. To his right is a white woven basket filled with various colored markers. In the background, there is a wooden shelf with several more woven baskets containing books and toys. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

**STRONG PUBLIC POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
THROUGH PUBLICLY OPERATED PROGRAMS
AND SCHOOL BOARD EXPANSION TO THE
YOUNGER YEARS IS VITAL TO SUPPORT
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED**

THANK YOU



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