

# The Public Advantage of ECEC in Quebec

« Still Room for Growth »



**17th Annual Summer Institute on Early Childhood Development - June 2021**

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# THE LITTLE STORY OF AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT

**1979:** The “Child Care Services Act” prioritized the development of cooperatives/non-profit enterprises managed mainly by parents.

**1991:** The report « Un Québec Fou de ces enfants » brought to light the importance of prevention, equity and poverty reduction.

**“The idea of creating a public/ fully subsidized  
network of ECEC is seeded”**

# THE LITTLE STORY OF AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT

**1997:** Adoption of the Family Policy “Children at the Heart of Our Choices”

- ✓ Universal access to quality services (increased assistance for low-income families)
- ✓ Equality of opportunity
- ✓ Creation of the Ministry of Family and Children



**Creation of the public network of ECEC (CPE \$5/day)**

# GAINS

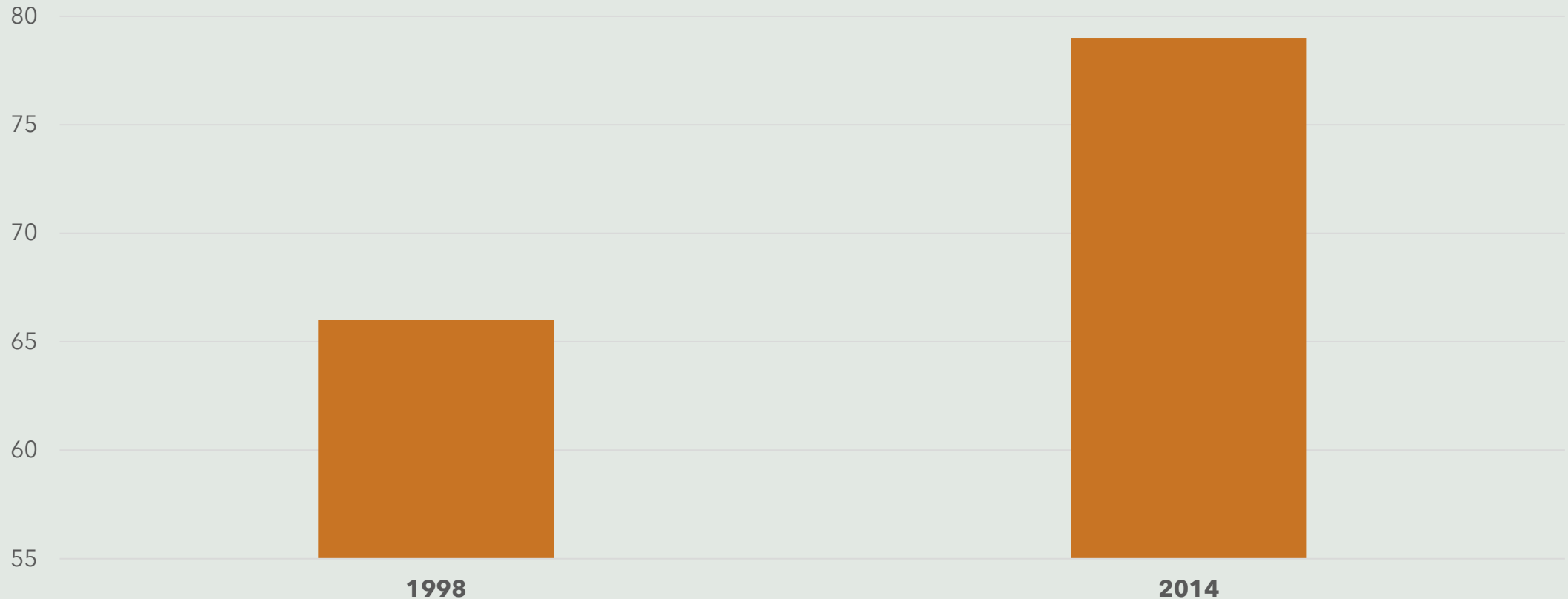
Social benefits were measured in terms of:

- ✓ *Women's participation in the labour market\**
- ✓ *Positive impact on the work-family balance*
- ✓ *Increased support for families*
- ✓ *Increased support for fathers' involvement with their young children*
- ✓ *Better quality... although not perfect!*

*Report of the Commission on Early Childhood Education - February 2017*

# GAINS

## Labour force participation rates of mothers (children under 5)



*Pierre Fortin, Luc Godbout et Suzie St-Cerny, 2013. L'impact des services de garde à contribution réduite du Québec sur le taux d'activité féminin, le revenu intérieur et les budgets gouvernementaux, en ligne <https://interventionseconomiques.revues.org/1858>*

# SETBACKS

**2003:** End of moratorium on subsidized custody (\$7/day, now \$8,50/day)

**2006:** First waves of majors budget cuts (\$241 millions from 2006 to 2014).

*Source: AQCPE*

**2009:** Tax credit enhancement for private child care

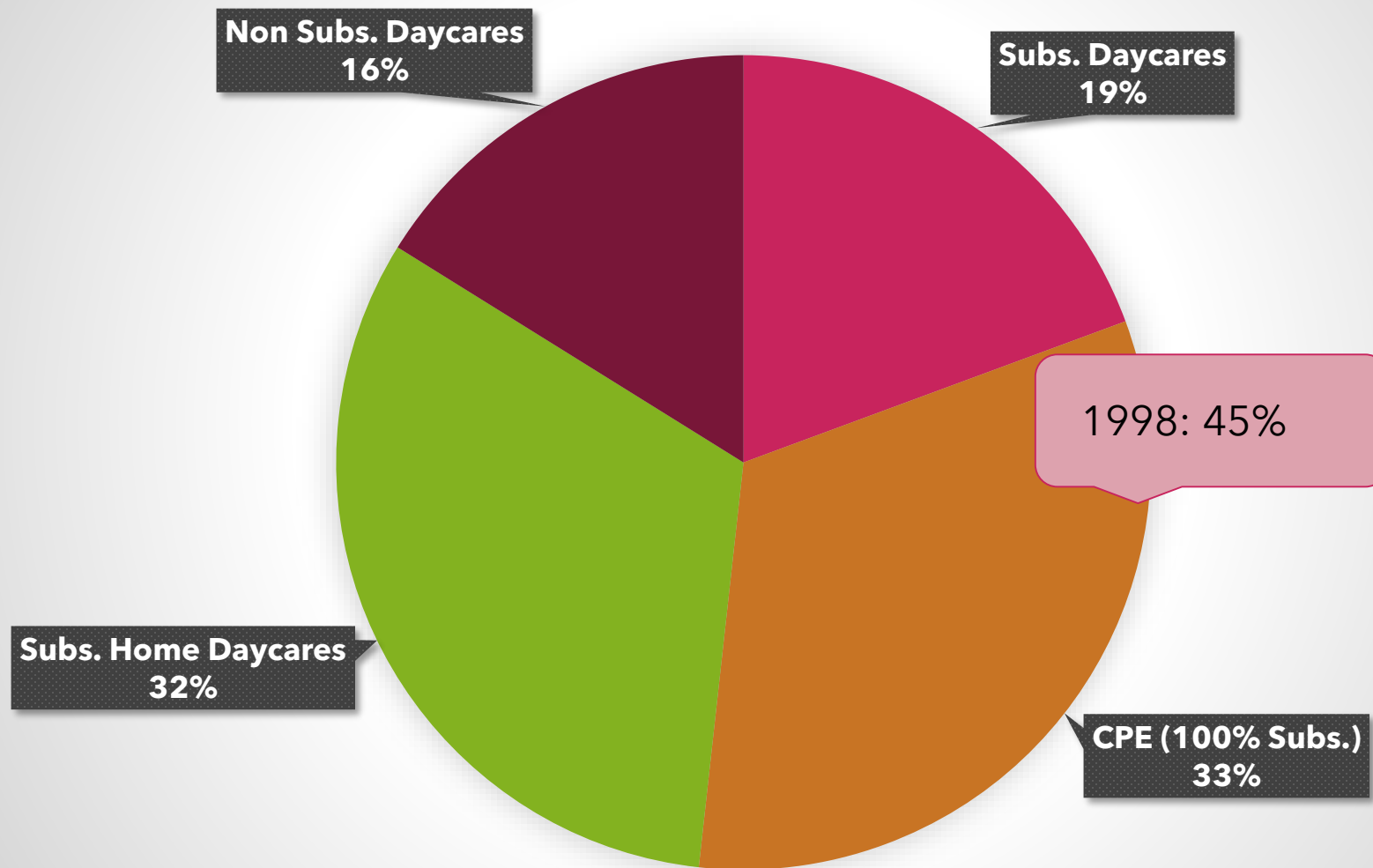
- ✓ *Rapid growth in the number of places in non-subsidized daycares (53 636 places were created between 2003 and 2016)*
- ✓ *Created competition*

**2015-2016:** modulation of childcare rates according to income

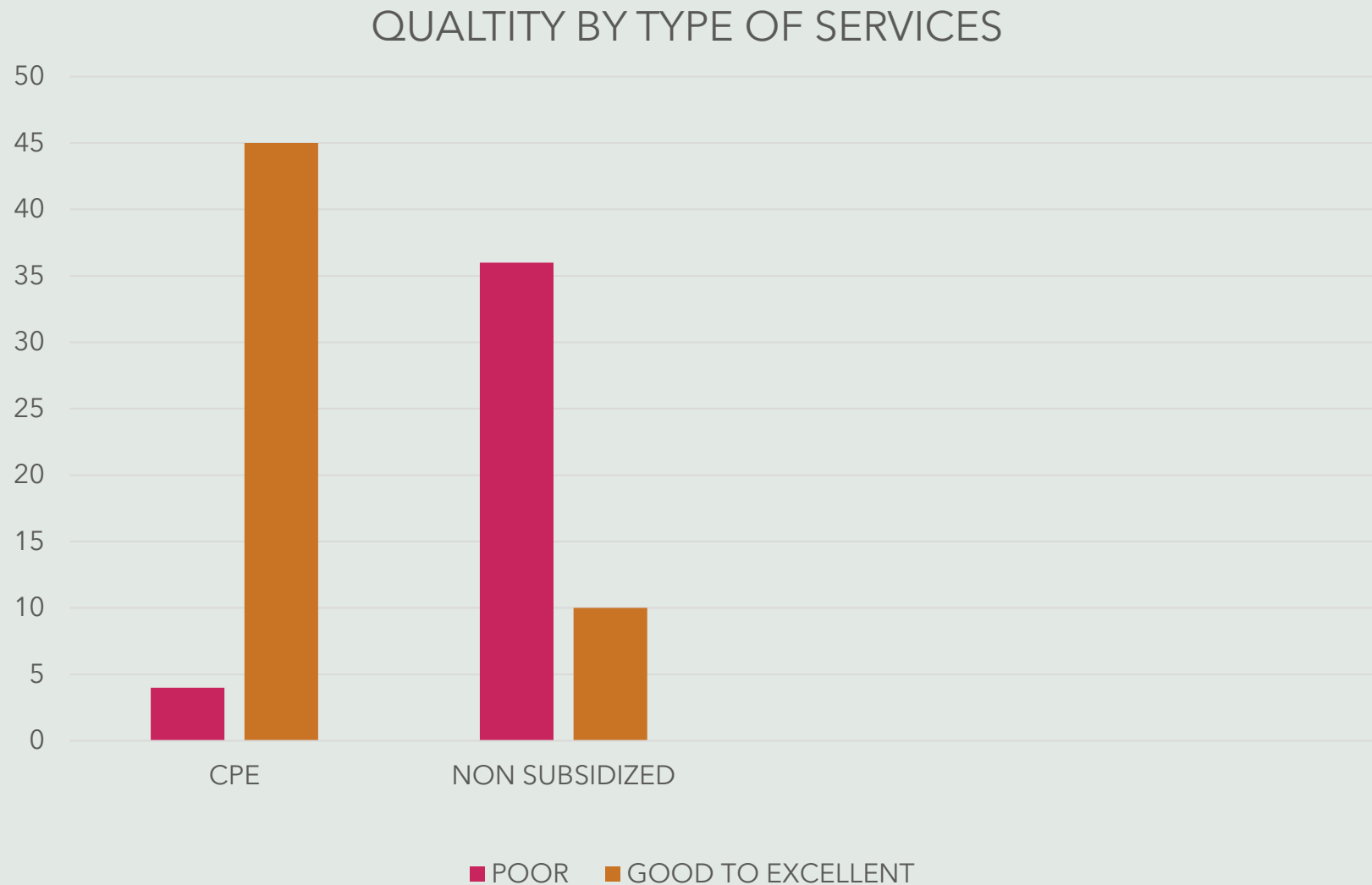
- ✓ *Created a shift in the clientele towards non-subsidized settings that give access to tax credits. Stopped in 2019...*

*Christa Japel, 2017. Commission on Early Childhood Education*

# ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION OF SPACES (285 315)



# QUALITY IS STILL AN ISSUE



*Institut de la statistique du Québec, 2015. Enquête québécoise sur la qualité des services de garde éducatif - Grandir en qualité 2014, en ligne : <http://www.grandirenqualite.gouv.qc.ca/resultat-2014.htm>*



## ACCESS AND EQUITY ARE « ALSO » STILL AN ISSUE

Results from the **Quebec Longitudinal Study of Child Development (QLSD)** show that **the most vulnerable children benefit the most from quality educational services.**

- However, these children are **less likely** to attend educational services **and**
- When they do, they are **more likely to be of low quality.**

*Christa Japel, Richard Tremblay et Sylvana Côté (2005). La qualité des services de garde à la petite enfance : Résultats de l'Étude longitudinale du développement des enfants du Québec (ÉLDEQ), en ligne : <https://www.aqcpe.com/content/uploads/2016/05/automne-2005-japel-tremblay-cote-qualite-sgeresultats-eldeq.pdf>*

# INEQUITIES IN ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES

« CHILDREN FROM LOW SES HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO GOOD/EXCELLENT QUALITY CENTRES »

