

**Main Features of the Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements**  
**By**  
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Common Features <sup>1</sup>	QUAD: <i>Quality</i> defined as “evidence based practices, including provincial/territorial regulations and monitoring, appropriate complement of staff and child care providers; education and support for ECEs and child care providers; promotion of community partnerships. <i>Universally Inclusive</i> – responsive without discrimination, inclusive of children with special needs, Aboriginal children and children with various cultural and linguistic circumstances. <i>Accessible</i> – broadly available and affordable to all, which includes flexible range of options for families and enhanced operating funds and/or fee subsidies. <i>Developmental</i> - strengthen the learning and developmental component across Canada to meet more fully the cognitive, physical, emotional and social development needs of children by investing in evidence-based practices.
	Only for funding investments in regulated ELCC programs and services “in settings such as child care centres, family child care homes, pre-schools and nursery schools.” Menu of funding options includes “capital and operating funding, fee subsidies, wage enhancements, training, professional development and support, quality assurance and parent information and referral.”
	Reporting to respective publics and contributing to the development of a pan-Canadian quality framework
Newfoundland and Labrador	Non-/for-profit? Not specified
	Integration? Specifies that “programs and services that are part of the formal school system will not be included in the initiative”
	Amount <sup>2</sup> : \$11.3million in 05-06; 10.3 in 06-07; 18.0 in 07-08; 17.8 in 08-09; and 17.6 in 09-10.
	Plans: They are currently working on their five year plan which is to be ready by the 31 December 2005.
Nova Scotia	Non-/for-profit? Not specified
	Integration? Same clause excluding the formal school system
	Amount: \$20.4 million 2005-06; 18.8 2006-07; 33 in 2007-08; 32.7 in 2008-09; and 32.4 in 2009-10
	Plans: Has outlined four areas on which it intends to focus – subsidy rates, operational grants, revised criteria for subsidy eligibility and improved retention and training supports. Have completed survey of the province but no statements yet on the five year plan.
New Brunswick	Non-/for-profit? public and private
	Integration? Same clause excluding the formal school system
	Amount: \$16.4m in 2005-06; 15.0m in 2006-7; 26.4m in 2007-08; 26.2m in 2008-09 and 25.9 in 2009-10
	Plans: Not stated yet. But Introduction does not commit NB to invest all new \$ in regulated ELCC. Does however mention NB will continue to invest in the Quality Improvement Funding Support Program and laudes NB for increasing chld care funding by 150% since 2000. Objectives clause allows for “increasing developmental experience <i>at home</i> and in early learning and child care settings.” (Other agreements indicated only in regulated ELCC settings.) Additional clause indicates NB “will achieve these objectives by making investments in regulated community-based early learning and child care facilities”.
Prince Edward Island	Non-/for-profit? Not specified
	Integration? Same clause excluding the formal school system

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Quebec with two exceptions. The Quebec agreement includes the commitment to reporting to its public and to sharing the results with the government of Canada, thus contributing to the development of a pan-Canadian set of quality indicators.

<sup>2</sup> Funds listed are in addition to previously agreed transfers under the Early Child Development Initiative.

	<p><b>Amount:</b> \$3m 2005-06; \$2.8m 2006-07; \$4.9m in 2007-08; \$4.9m in 2008-09; and \$4.9m in 2009-10</p> <p><b>Plans:</b> Not announced. Stated goals in Preamble include integrated continuum of ELCC programs from infancy to school entry; Early Childhood educators and child care providers to be recognized as professionals and improved access to ELCC.</p>
Ontario	<p><b>Non-/for-profit?</b> Not specified.</p>
	<p><b>Integration?</b> The governments agree " to support innovative programming that integrates early learning and child care with community and school-based programs and services."</p>
	<p><b>Amount:</b> \$271.9 million in 2005-06; 253.2 in 2006-07; 448.9 in 2007-08; 449.8 in 2008-09; 450.8 in 2009-10</p>
	<p><b>Plans:</b> The Ontario government had already announced its <i>Best Start</i> strategy. The broader plan includes healthy development and community hubs "to pull together screening, assessment and treatment, child care and parenting programs and language resources." The parts of relevance to this agreement are: rapid expansion of child care spaces, preferably located on school sites, starting with children in junior and senior kindergarten; strengthening connections between early learning and care and kindergarten communities; a half-day learning program and child care spaces for children 2 ½ to 4; new distribution of child care subsidies based on income rather than a means-test; new College of Early Childhood Educators to establish professional standards and ensure quality care; establishment of a Quality and Human Resources expert panel to look at recruitment and retention of early childhood educators. 25,000 new spaces by 2007-08. <i>Municipalities released from their cost-sharing obligation from 2005-06 to 2009-10.</i></p>
Manitoba	<p><b>Non-/for-profit?</b> Only non-profit</p>
	<p><b>Integration?</b> Formal school system not included. Note however that the Manitoba agreement is the only one that mentions "piloting hub model projects to support community based, efficient and cost effective governance". It also mentions the establishment of "service quality teams" in the section on quality.</p>
	<p><b>Amount:</b> \$26million in 2005-06; 24 in 2006-07; 42 in 2007-08; 42 in 2008-09; and 42 in 2009-10</p>
	<p><b>Plans:</b> Manitoba already had a five year plan in place. It will simply revise this in light of the new funding available. In July it announced: \$11.5 million to increase wages and benefits for early childhood educators and improvements of income levels for family child care providers; \$1.4 million over two years for training at community colleges including the francophone college in St Boniface; an increase of \$750,000 for recruitment fund to attract qualified staff back to the field; \$581,300 for substitute workers temporarily to replace regular staff engaged in workplace training; \$200,000 for tuition support for students in ECE programs. November 11, 2005 announced \$2.7 million capital fund for renovation or expansion of existing or for establishment of new child care facility.</p>
Saskatchewan	<p><b>Non-/for-profit?</b> Non-profit only</p>
	<p><b>Integration?</b> "support innovative programming that integrates early learning and child care with community and school-based programs and services"</p>
	<p><b>Amount:</b> \$22million in 2005-06; 20 in 2006-07; 35 in 2007-08; 35 in 2008-09 and 34 in 2009-10</p>
	<p><b>Plans:</b> in process</p>
Alberta	<p><b>Non-/for-profit?</b> For-profit and non-profit included.</p>
	<p><b>Integration?</b> Precludes formal school system</p>
	<p><b>Amount</b> \$70.4 million in 2005-06; 65.7 million in 2006-07; 116.8 million in 2007-08; 117.3 in 2008-09 and 117.9 in 2009-10</p>

	<p><b>Plans:</b> A key feature of Alberta's agreement is that it will include a new benefit of \$100 a month for eligible stay-at-home parents to pay fees for licensed nursery school and other approved ECD programs. This is in line with its philosophy, stated in the agreement, that "Because parents and caregivers may play a critical role in fostering children's development, Alberta's programs and services include support for parents and other adults who care for children." Federal funds for <i>Kin Care</i> precluded, but the agreement makes this clear that this is part of their child care system. Other features include an increase in the maximum subsidy and a boost of the income threshold to allow more families to benefit. Two parent family earning up to \$39,600 will now be eligible for full subsidy and the ceiling on the partial will now be a family income of \$78,600. Increased funding to improve access to specialised child care for children with disabilities; increased funding for wages and training programs in accredited day care and approved family day homes plus improved information (parent information line on parenting etc.).</p>
British Columbia	<p><b>Non-/for-profit?</b> Both non-profit and for-profit explicitly included</p>
	<p><b>Integration?</b> Includes "innovative programming that integrates early learning and child care with community and school-based programs and services"</p>
	<p><b>Amount:</b> \$92.0 in 2005-06; 85.6 in 2006-07; 151.7 in 2007-8; 151.8 in 2008-09 and 152.1 in 2009-10</p>
	<p><b>Plans:</b> BC's agreement stressed three principles – choice/flexibility, targeting low income families and families with special needs, and integrated services. Other goals "more employment and business opportunities...for child care professionals, particularly women, and in Aboriginal and multicultural communities." Just prior to signing the agreement, the Province announced: changes to the subsidy system raising the ceiling for full subsidy from \$21,000 to 38,000 (family income). The Ministry of Children and Family Development also announced that "pre-school aged children who do not attend a licensed group or pre-school setting can now receive an additional subsidy to help them benefit from the enrichment of a larger group pre-school experience". Child care operating funding rates will increase by 36.6%: "child care providers decide how best to use this funding in meeting day to day costs...and may choose to use the additional funds to help them recruit and retain staff. Conditions related to future increases will be based on stakeholder consultation and linked to quality and accessibility improvements." Finally \$6 million in increased capital funding available only to non-profit providers.</p>
Quebec	<p>No reference to <i>QUAD</i> but "whereas Canada's goals are very similar to those already pursued by Québec in its system of educational child care"; "Québec's child care programs are available on First Nations Reserves" but "the federal government has also announced its intention to invest an additional \$100 million for child care services for First Nations on reserves. The implementation of this initiative will be developed in consultation with First Nations living on reserve with provinces and territories"</p> <p><i>"Québec having the objective of increasing to 200,000 the number of child care spaces at reduced parental contribution by 21 march 2006, it may invest federal funds provided through this agreement in related objectives for the well-being of families."</i></p> <p>Québec agreed to incorporate "into its current public reporting cycles information concerning its priorities and financing provided by Canada"</p> <p>Either party may terminate the agreement at any time without cause by giving at least one year's written notice.</p> <p><b>Amount:</b> \$152.8 million 2006-07; 269.7 2007-08; 269.1 10008-09 and 268.4 2009-10</p>

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