

**Child Care in Canada**  
**-- A National Survey from the Angus Reid Institute in partnership with Cardus --**

**Part A: General Public's Perspectives**

Introduction/Context

**INTRO**

**Base=All**

**[text screen]**

Thank you for taking part in today's survey. We'll be looking at some issues concerning life today in Canada and [Province].

As always, there are no right or wrong answers – we just want everyone's honest perspectives.

**A1.**

**Base=All**

**[Single-choice grid]**

There are a lot of different issues and priorities competing for government attention and funding. Thinking about how things are in your own local community, how much of a priority do you think governments here in Canada should be giving to each of the following areas?

**[Rows -- randomize]**

The availability of affordable child care options for pre-schoolers

Crime and public safety

The quality of public-school education

Access to health care services

Job opportunities for young people

Housing affordability

Poverty and homelessness

Parks and recreation amenities

**[columns]**

Highest priority

High priority, among others

Medium priority

Lower priority

## Assessments of Child Care Today

### TEXT

**Base=All respondents**

**[Text screen]**

Now we want to consider some issues regarding child care and the options available to parents of young children in your community.

Even if you don't have children of your own or your kids are older now, we are interested in everyone's perspectives based on what you might have seen or heard and on your own general impressions.

If you do have a young child, your perceptions will obviously be based on your own experiences but for the more general questions please also consider whatever else you might know from other local parents' experiences as well.

### A2.

**Base = All respondents**

**[Single-choice grid]**

Based on whatever you might have seen or heard or on your own experiences, how do you think each of the following rates:

**[Rotate first two]**

The cost and affordability of child care options in your community

The availability and waiting lists for child care in your community

Child care options in your community overall **[Anchor last]**

**[columns]**

Very good

Good

Okay

Poor  
 Very poor  
 No idea/Really Can't say

Attitude Probing

**A3.**

**Base = All respondents**

**[single choice grid]**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**[rows][randomize]**

It is best for young kids to be home with a parent whenever possible

We need a much bigger public investment in affordable quality child care options

It's just not right that parents have been left on their own to scramble for child care so they can work

Finding quality child care is a way bigger hassle than it should be for parents today

Child care workers are under-paid for the important work they do

People who choose to have children shouldn't expect society to foot the bill to take care of them

Mothers have every right to work hard and pursue a fulfilling career

**[columns]**

Strongly Agree  
 Moderately Agree  
 Moderately Disagree  
 Strongly Disagree

Policy proposals

**Base = All respondents**

**[display text]**

Now, let's take a look at some proposals that have been made regarding child care. Again, even if you don't have young children, we are interested in everyone's point of view here.

**A4.**

**Base = All respondents**

**[single choice]**

In Canada, the provinces are responsible for funding and regulating the supply of child care, and they receive federal funding to help pay for it. The federal government is now moving towards negotiating a national child care system by offering a sizeable increase in federal funding for provinces to create and maintain additional child care centre spaces.

Overall, do you support or oppose the idea of moving towards a national child care system in Canada?

Strongly Support

Moderately Support

Moderately Oppose

Strongly Oppose

**A5.**

**Base = All respondents**

**[single choice grid]**

Here are some specific proposals that have been made regarding child care in Canada and [Province]. For each of the following, please indicate whether you support or oppose that idea.

**[rows -- randomize]**

Create a guaranteed paid family leave program that provides income during the first year of a child's life for those who don't qualify for parental leave under Employment Insurance (EI)

Increase the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment up to an additional \$125 a month per child

Create a refundable federal tax credit that allows lower income families to claim as much as 75% of their child care expenses

Expand the Child Disability Benefit up to an additional \$125 a month for children with special needs/disabilities

Prioritize federal funding for child care in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities

Create a \$300 a month per child subsidy for non-parental, in-home care (such as a nanny or paid relative)

Publicly subsidize eligible child care centres and regulated home day cares as in Quebec where parents pay roughly \$10 per child per day and the government funds the rest of the costs

**[columns]**

Strongly Support

Moderately Support

Moderately Oppose

Strongly Oppose

Not sure/Can't Say

**A6.**

**Base = All respondents**

**[multi-choice, max 2]**

Of these various proposed child care policies we just looked at, please indicate which, if any, you would choose as the top priorities to proceed with. (Select your top one or two)

Paid family leave outside EI

Increase the CCB benefit by \$125

Tax credit so lower income families can claim up to 75% of child care

Expand Child Disability Benefit up to an additional \$125

More funding for child care in Indigenous communities

\$300 a month subsidy for in-home care

Subsidized child care facilities where parents pay \$10/day

None of the above/Don't do any of these **[Anchor. Exclusive]**

**A7.**

**Base = All respondents**

**[single choice]**

Generally speaking, there are two broad policy approaches to providing public funding support for child care. Which would you say is the overall best option?

**[rotate]**

Provide financial support directly to families to choose their own best option

OR

Fund child care providers to expand the spaces available in the system

**Part B: Parents' Experience [Parents of <6]****Child Care Arrangements/Experience****B1a.**

**Base=All**

**[multi-choice, select all]**

To help with our survey analysis and to make sure our remaining questions are relevant...

Do you have children? (Select all that apply)

No children **[exclusive]**

Yes, kid(s) under 6

Yes, kid(s) 6–12

Yes, kid(s) 13 – 17

Yes, kid(s) 18+

**B1b.**

**Base=Exclude no OR only Kids 18+ at B1a**

**[single choice]**

How many children do you have under 18 years of age?

One child under 18

Two

Three

Four

Five or more kids under 18

**B2.**

**Base= Yes, kids under 6 in B1a**

Please indicate the gender and age of your child **under 6**. If you have more than one child under 6, let's please refer to the one whose birthday is next. What is that child's:

Gender:

Male

Female

Other

Age:

Under 1 year

1 year old

2

3

4

5 years old

**[Parents of kids <6, continue. All others skip to end]**

**TEXT1**

**Base= Yes, kids under 6 in B1a**

**[Text screen]**

Now a few questions about your own current child care arrangements and experience.

By child care arrangements, we are referring to any care for children by someone other than the parent or guardian. These arrangements could be formal or informal. Examples include the use of daycare facilities, in-home care by a relative or non-relative as well as before and after school programs. We are NOT referring to occasional babysitting or kindergarten. And of course we realize some parents do not use any other arrangements for their young child(ren).

**B3.**

**Base=Has Kids under 6 in B1a**

**[single choice]**

For the following specific questions about child care arrangements, please refer to your [Gender from B1b] child aged [Age from B1b].

Is one or both parents currently at home with this child every day of the week or is some other child care arrangement used at least some days while parent(s) are out for work or school or other reasons?

Parent at home everyday

Some other child care arrangements used

**B4.****Base= Parent at home in B3****[multi choice]**

You've indicated one or both parents are at home with this child. What are the reasons for this being your main child care arrangement? (Select all that apply)

**[randomize]**

Still a baby/Home for now

Preference/Always the plan to have parent at home

Works right now/parent at home now, available

Cannot afford paid care/Too expensive

Cannot find other care/No alternative

Since COVID-19/Now working at home

Other reason: \_\_\_\_\_ **[fixed]****["Care by parent" (Yes in B3) now skip to B13. Other parents continue]****B5.****Base=Other arrangements in B3****[single choice]**

Currently, what is the **primary** child care used for this child when the parent(s) are not at home? (Please select one only)

**[Keep this order]**

Care by family (a relative)

Care by friend

Care by non-relative in your home

A home-based child care (not in your own home)

A child care or daycare centre

Nursery school/preschool setting

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**B6.****Base= Other arrangements in B3****[single choice]**

And for this same child, roughly how much time do they spend in child care in a typical week?

30 or more hours per week

15 to 30 hours per week

Under 15 hours per week

**B7.**

**Base= Other arrangements in B3**

**[multi-choice, max 3]**

What are the main reasons for using your current child care arrangement?

(Select up to 3 reasons from this list or type in your own other reason if it's not there.)

**[randomize]**

Location (close to work, school)

Affordable cost

Hours of operation/Schedule

Program characteristics (such as curriculum, languages spoken)

My other children have gone/go there

Reputation/Recommendation/Research

Meets child's special needs due to disability or chronic illness

Only option available

Overall preference/Always the plan

Other reason: \_\_\_\_\_ **[fixed]**

None of the above **[fixed][exclusive]**

**B8.**

**Base= Other arrangements in B3**

**[single choice]**

Did you have other acceptable options available for you to choose from – whether a different facility or a relative available or any other alternative?

Yes, other acceptable option(s)

Possibly/Didn't keep looking/Not sure

No, only had the one option

**B9a.**

**Base= Other arrangements in B3**

**[single choice]**

Overall, how easy or difficult was it for you to find and secure this child care arrangement?

[Slider scale]

Very easy.....Easy enough.....Not too bad.....Difficult....Very difficult

**B9b.**

**Base= Other arrangements in B3**

**[single choice]**

And was it stressful finding and securing this child care arrangement?

No, not at all

A bit

Fairly stressful

Yes, very stressful

**B10a.**

**Base= Exclude Easy/Easy enough at B9a**

**[multi-choice, max 3]**

What specific difficulties did you have getting this child care arrangement? (Select up to 3)

**[randomize]**

Availability/No spaces/Long waiting lists

Cost/Finding affordable/Expensive

Finding licensed care was hard

Finding a quality place/person

Location/finding close by

Meeting child's special needs due to disability or chronic illness

My schedule/need flexible/later hours

Care that could accommodate more than one child in your family

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ **[fixed]**

None of the above **[Anchor. Exclusive]**

**B10b.**

**[single choice]**

**Base=Other arrangements in B3**

To confirm, did you have to wait longer than you wanted to get this child care arrangement?

Yes, way longer wait  
 Somewhat longer  
 Wait was fine/Not longer  
 No wait at all

**B10c.**

**[multi choice, select all]**

**Base=Way or somewhat longer in B10b**

Did waiting for a child care space result in any of the following:

Delay a parent going back to work  
 Delay a parent going back to school  
 Cut work hours  
 Had to rely on a relative for child care  
 Had to make another arrangement while waiting  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ **[fixed]**  
 No, none of these things **[exclusive]**

**B11.**

**Base= Other arrangements in B3**

**[single choice]**

All things considered, how is this current child care arrangement working for you?

Works very well, I have no desire to seek an alternative  
 Fine  
 It's okay  
 Not working well at all, I would prefer a different arrangement

**B12.**

**Base= Other arrangements in B3**

**[multi-choice, select all]**

Are there any problems or shortcomings you would highlight with this child care arrangement?  
 Please select all that may apply.

**[RANDOMIZE]**

Expensive/Cost

Not licensed  
 Quality of staff could be better  
 Far away/Not convenient  
 Not enough support for child's special needs/disability  
 Difficult to accommodate with my/our schedule  
 Child does not like it  
 Lacks educational aspect  
 No "extra's" (outings or meals, etc.)  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ **[fixed]**  
 No problems **[exclusive]**

**B13.****[single-choice grid]****Base=Has Kids under 6 in Q2a (Parents at home everyday rejoins here)**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**[randomize]**

If I could afford to, I'd rather stay home full-time until my kids go to grade school

Running a child care centre would be a super difficult job

**[columns]**

Strongly Agree  
 Moderately Agree  
 Moderately Disagree  
 Strongly Disagree

**B14a.****[single choice]****Base=Has Kids under 6 in Q1a**

Have your child care arrangements changed since COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions began in early 2020?

No, have not changed during the pandemic  
 Yes, they did change temporarily but now back to before

Yes, they changed and the new arrangements are still in place

**B14b.**

**Base=Exclude No in B14a**

**[multi-choice]**

Was this change during the COVID-19 pandemic due to:

(Select all that apply)

**[randomize list]**

Job loss so parent(s) at home

Parent(s) now working from home

Parent now home to assist older kid(s) with remote learning

Relative available/offered

To save money

Child care provider closed due to COVID-19/restrictions

Concerned about COVID-19 in daycare setting

Other reasons: \_\_\_\_\_ **[fixed]**