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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[rows][randomize]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is best for young kids to be home with a parent whenever possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We need a much bigger public investment in affordable quality child care options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s just not right that parents have been left on their own to scramble for child care so they can work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding quality child care is a way bigger hassle than it should be for parents today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care workers are under-paid for the important work they do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who choose to have children shouldn’t expect society to foot the bill to take care of them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers have every right to work hard and pursue a fulfilling career</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*[columns]*

Strongly Agree
Moderately Agree
Moderately Disagree
Strongly Disagree

**Policy proposals**
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**

[display text]

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
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**]