ECE services in Quebec: What about quality and equality of chances?

Presentation to Atkinson Center Task Force
January 9th, 2018
Introduction: AQCPE wants to ignite a national conversation on quality

- Quebec is an important laboratory in the country for ECE development and AQCPE wishes to share its experience;
- 20 years of trial and error have demonstrated there is a considerable risk that rapid development can unfold at the expense of quality;
- It’s very difficult to fix quality “after the fact”, once its levels have become uneven or poor;
- Children across Canada and their families could benefit from stakeholders sharing experience and working towards better quality across the board;
- There is no reason why work-family balance should be achieved at the expense of quality.
Table of contents

1. Who we are
2. A brief history of Quebec’s ECE services
3. Development of spaces and impact on quality
4. What now?
AQCPE represents Quebec’s Centres de la petite enfance (CPEs) and family-based subsidized daycares.

We are Quebec’s leading voice on all early childhood-education related issues.
A brief history of Quebec’s network of ECE services

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<td>Supply cannot meet demand.</td>
<td>Popularity of CPEs is growing fast and interest outpaces demand.</td>
<td>Supply is beginning to meet demand.</td>
<td>Supply may surpass demand in some regions. Some families choose commercial over CPE because of incentives.</td>
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<td>Human and financial resources are growing, but still insufficient.</td>
<td>Human and financial resources are growing slower than demand.</td>
<td>End of universality: Fee hikes and differentiated fees according to family income. Severe cuts to subsidized services.</td>
<td>Additional cuts.</td>
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<td>Growth in CPEs is prioritized.</td>
<td>New strategy to increase supply: government now prioritizes for-profit, non-subsidized spaces.</td>
<td>Expansion of for-profit services clearly prioritized.</td>
<td>Work-family balance is achieved but at the expense of quality, which should be the main focus.</td>
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<td>More emphasis put on work-family balance than on quality.</td>
<td>Work-family balance is made easier, but quality remains low and varies significantly from one service to another.</td>
<td>Work-family balance is within reach.</td>
<td>Recognition that early childhood is part of the education pathway, but uneven quality.</td>
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Equality of chances: are we living up to our ambitions?

« We must not forget that this economic stimulus policy requires better work-family balance, more equitable policies and more incentives to work.

We must not forget either that the purpose of this policy is to ensure that our children can live in a more just society, one that will give them every chance of success. »

Lucien Bouchard, Premier of Quebec, 1997
Distribution of spaces in Quebec’s various ECE services

Distribution as of September 30th, 2017
TOTAL: 296,637 places

- Commercial daycare centers (non-subsidized) 21%
- Commercial daycare centers (subsidized) 16%
- CPE (subsidized) 32%
- Family-based (subsidized) 31%
- FOR PROFIT 37%
- NOT FOR PROFIT 63%
Distribution of spaces for greater Montreal

Distribution as of September 30, 2017
TOTAL : 100 911 places

FOR PROFIT 55%

Commercial daycare centers (not subsidized) 32%
Commercial daycare centers (subsidized) 23%

CPE (subsidized) 27%

NOT FOR PROFIT 45%

Family-based (subsidized) 18%
Quebec surveys on quality of ECE services, 2003 & 2014

**Good to excellent:**
- 45% CPE
- 10% Non sub. For-profit

**Unsatisfactory:**
- 37% Non sub. For-profit
- 5% CPE
STUDIES OF EVOLUTION OF QUALITY LEVELS FOR ALL TYPES OF ECE SERVICES SINCE 2003 AND PROJECTION TO 2022

- 17.6%
- 21.4%
- 27.7%
- 24.1%
- 15%
- 17%
- 19%
- 21%
- 23%
- 25%
- 27%
- 29%

Budget Plan: target 93K spaces in for-profit non-sub.
- Easier access to tax credit
- Tax credit increase: $3S/day
- Slowdown in CPE Dev.
- Modulation
- Montreal
- Montreal-Metropolitain
- 22.9%
- 22.8%
- 22.4%
- 23.4%
- 22%
- 22%
- 25%


15% 17% 19% 21% 23% 25% 27% 29%
SCENARIO TO IMPROVE QUALITY: ELIMINATION OF 30,000 SPACES IN FOR-PROFIT, NON-SUBSIDIZED DAYCARE
What do we do now?

We improve

We move backwards

Status quo
Our vision

Science

Service providers

Families

Children

Stakeholders

Quality
AQCPE’s repositioning: from activist to leader and agent of positive change

2018
Actions to directly and indirectly stimulate public awareness and support of the importance of quality in order to influence political candidates in the 2018 Quebec Fall election.

Bill 143. OECD Conference in Paris.

Spring 2017
Summit on ECE. Over 30 organizations representing 2 million citizens signed on to the Declaration.

2015
Mobilisation against cuts in subsidized ECE services and against modulated fees: 200 000 signed petition, 50 000 demonstrators.

Summer/Fall 2017
Follow-up on Declaration. Creation of a steering committee to gather more signatures. Meetings with political parties. Mobilization of parents and influencers.

2016
Commission on early childhood education. 14 cities, 23 experts, 135 groups, 167 briefs, 416 citizens, 5000 parents surveyed.

2014
Mobilisation against modulated fees, petition of 75 000 names and demonstration attracting 75 000 people.

AQCPE’s repositioning: from activist to leader and agent of positive change

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Making some strides

- The cuts made during this government’s term have been partially cancelled and replaced by special budgetary allocations.
- Government cancelled modulation of fees for 3rd child and cut it by half for the 2nd.
- Government officially recognizes that ECE is part of the educational curriculum
- Organizations that have signed our Declaration represent more than 2 million people
What now? How can we influence decision-makers to opt for quality?
## Quebec votes in 2018

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<th>Party</th>
<th>Policies</th>
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| PLQ   | - Have governed Quebec for 15 of the past 20 years  
- In favour of modulation of fees according to family income  
- Want to maintain a variety of models (public & private)  
- In favour of 4-year old free kindergarten for underprivileged |
| CAQ   | - Adopted the family policy in 1997 (low fee, universal, extended parental leave)  
- In favour of a minimal universal fee; against modulation of fees  
- Inclination towards free ECE for all children  
- Very critical of for-profit centers |
| Québec solidaire | - Against modulation of fees  
- Free 4-year-old kindergarten for all children  
- Not very receptive to the importance of quality ECE between 0-3 years old  
- Mandatory screening of all 3-year-old children |
| Partenaires nationaux | - Support CPEs  
- In favour of free, universal ECE services  
- Not for profit and social economy |
|         | - Follow-up on Summit and Declaration  
- Social advocacy leading up to the election |
## Our plan for Quebec

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1. **Identify champions**
2. **Identify ambassadors**
3. **Identify influencers**
4. **Know candidates’ background**
5. **Know your arguments**
6. **Adopt a strategy**
7. **Create or adapt tools**
8. **Organize town halls**
9. **Coordinate local, regional and provincial actions**
10. **Ongoing monitoring of results and adapting strategies**
And the rest of Canada?

- Ignite a national conversation;
- Meet with various stakeholders in other provinces;
- Support provincial organizations and experts who are already in the field advocating for quality by sharing Quebec’s experience.
Thank you!