

# Strategic Early Years Philanthropy in Canada

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Early Childhood Impact Alliance

July 25, 2019



**Vision:** Early Childhood Education is the key to a better society. it provides children with the best possible start in life and is the foundation of literate, pluralistic and democratic Canada.

**Mission:** Promote the best evidence to inform practice, policy, and research to cultivate increased public investment in high quality early learning as an entitlement for every child.

# Partnerships – Universities, Government, Communities

Showcase evidence  
Cultivate support  
Create forums  
Champion public  
policies &  
infrastructure

## Research



Support applied research  
Linked data repositories  
Longitudinal studies  
Monitor impact  
Evaluate policies & practices

## Practice



Promote child-well being  
& learning  
Resource families  
Build early childhood  
workforce capacity  
Connect communities

## Policy



# Expanding ECE Quality Practice

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- Learning Environment Assessments
- Professional Learning
- Individual Child Assessment
- Regional Snapshots – Community/Regional Context & Early Development Instrument (AEDC)
- Demonstration sites to drive policy change

# Atlantic Collaborative

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Region-wide collection and reporting of Early Development Instrument (EDI) at 5 years in 2019

Outcome measure to complement ECE Report

Funding from MWMFF and Pratt Foundation on offer to support data analysis and reporting

Supports provinces' calls for integrated data repository to track children's development and learning from birth

REVERSING THE REAL BRAIN DRAIN

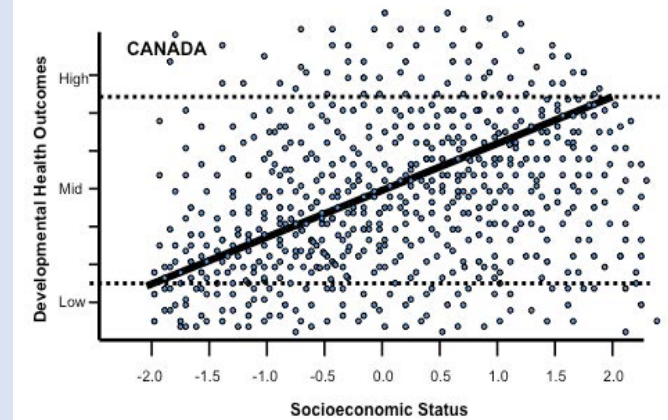
# Early Years Study

## Final Report

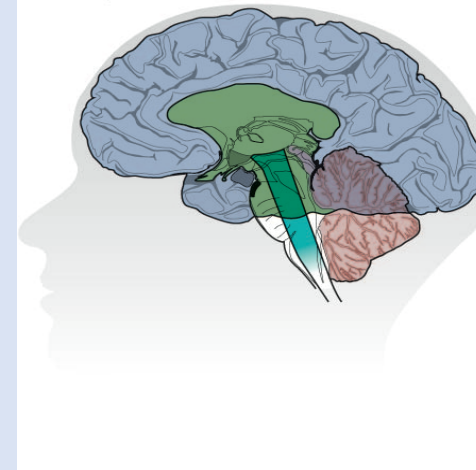


April 1999

Co-chairs: Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain & J. Fraser Mustard



The four major brain structures



# The Vision

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*“...What we envision will be a first "tier" program for early child development, as important as the elementary and secondary school system and the post-secondary education system. The system should consist of community-based centres operating at the local level and linked to local schools within a provincial framework...”*

*Early Years Study* McCain & Mustard, 1999

# After Early Years Study, 1999



**EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT**  
a population-based measure for communities

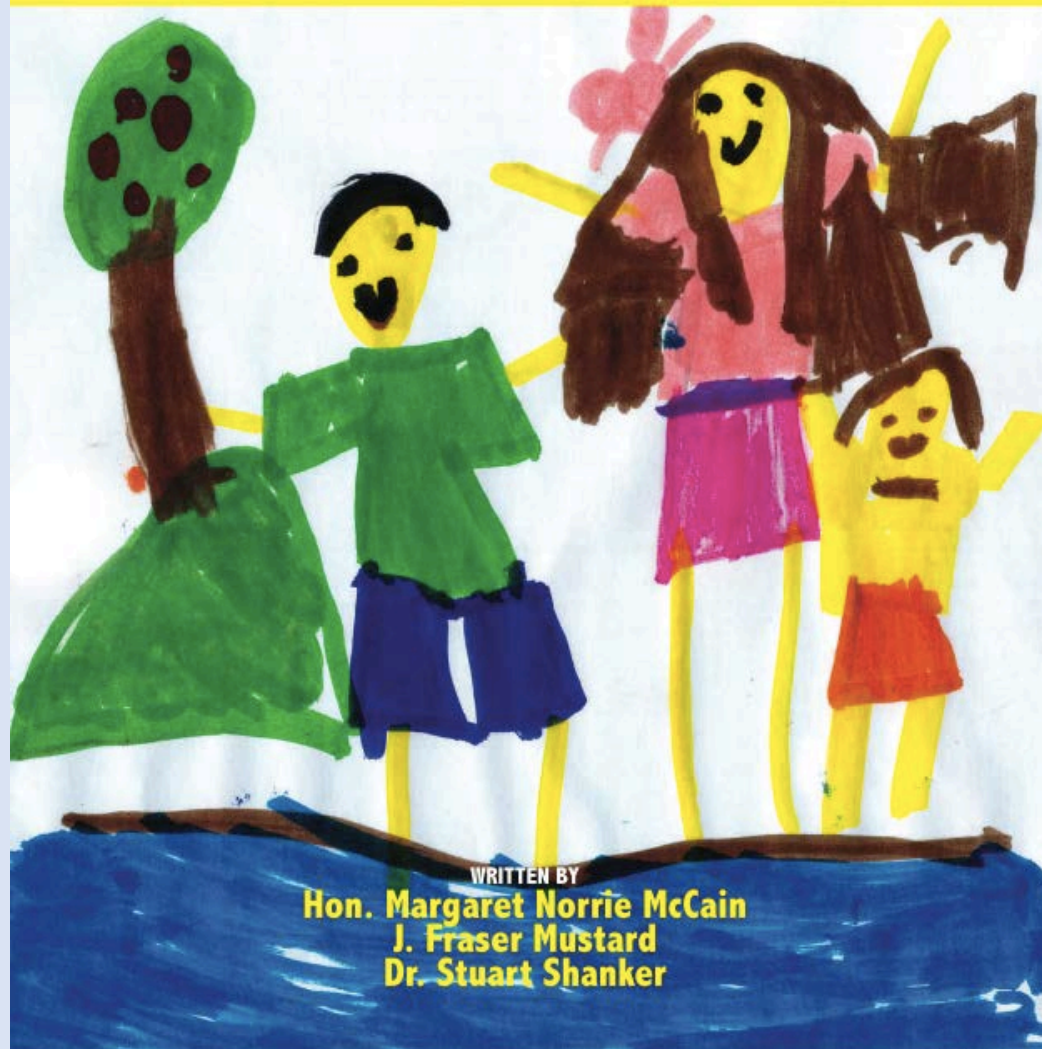
## Government of Canada

- federal/provincial/  
territorial agreements
- Parental leave to 12  
months



# EARLY YEARS STUDY 2

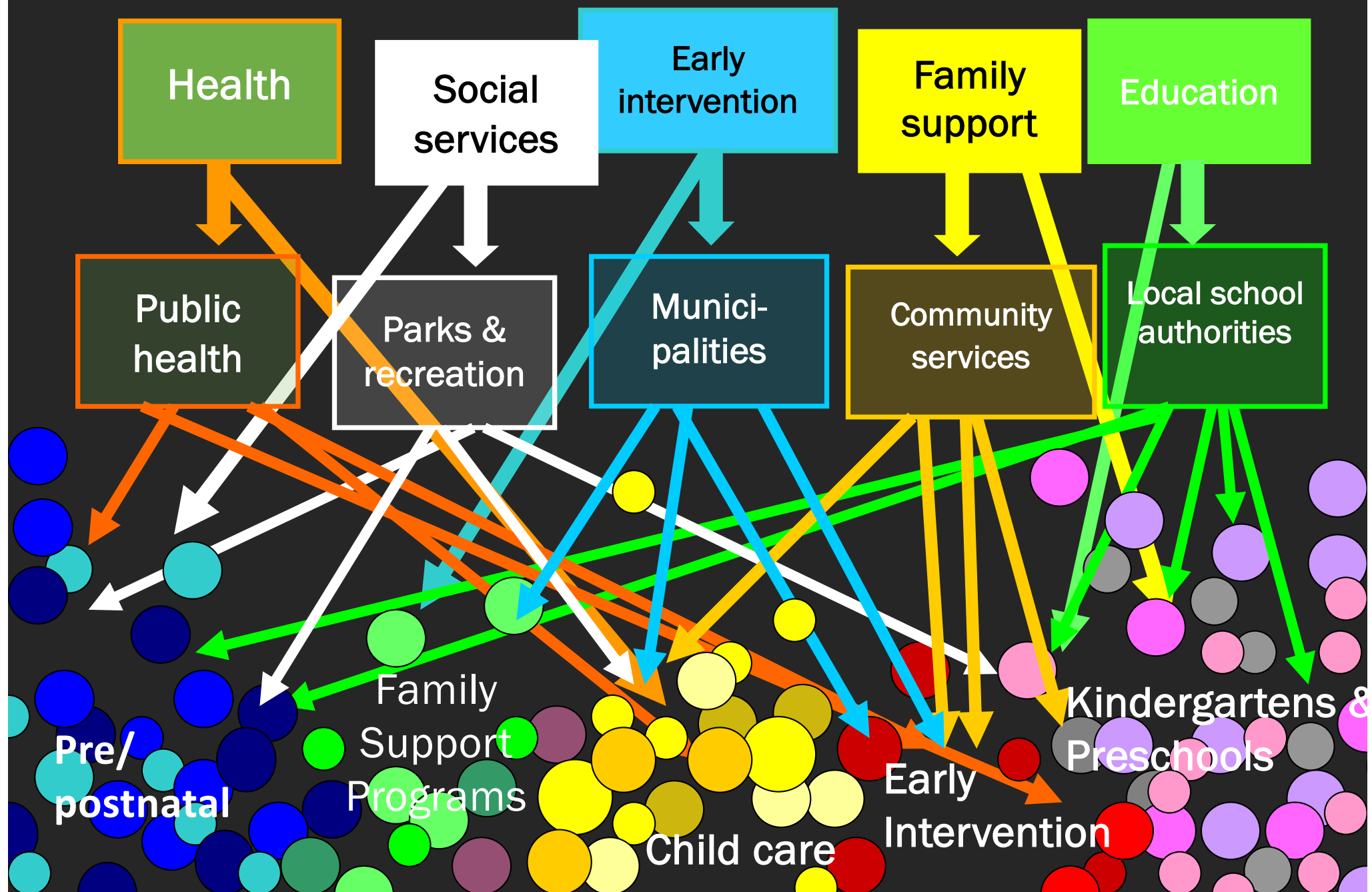
Putting Science into Action



WRITTEN BY

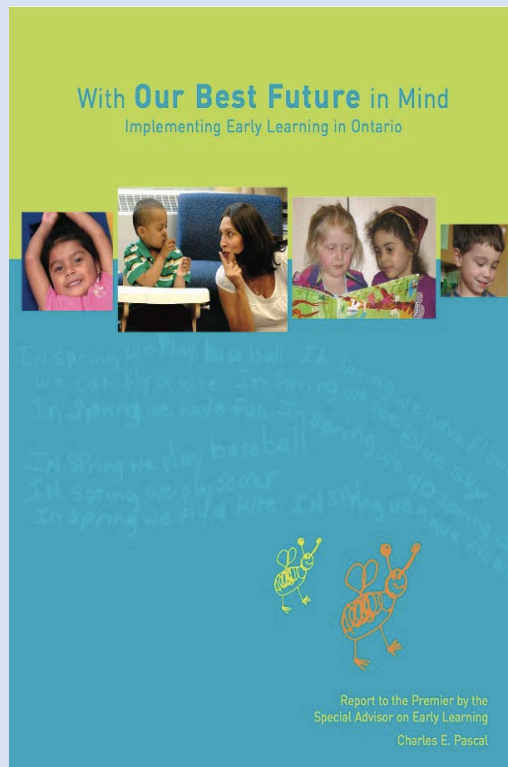
**Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain  
J. Fraser Mustard  
Dr. Stuart Shanker**

# Chaos



# After Early Years Study 2

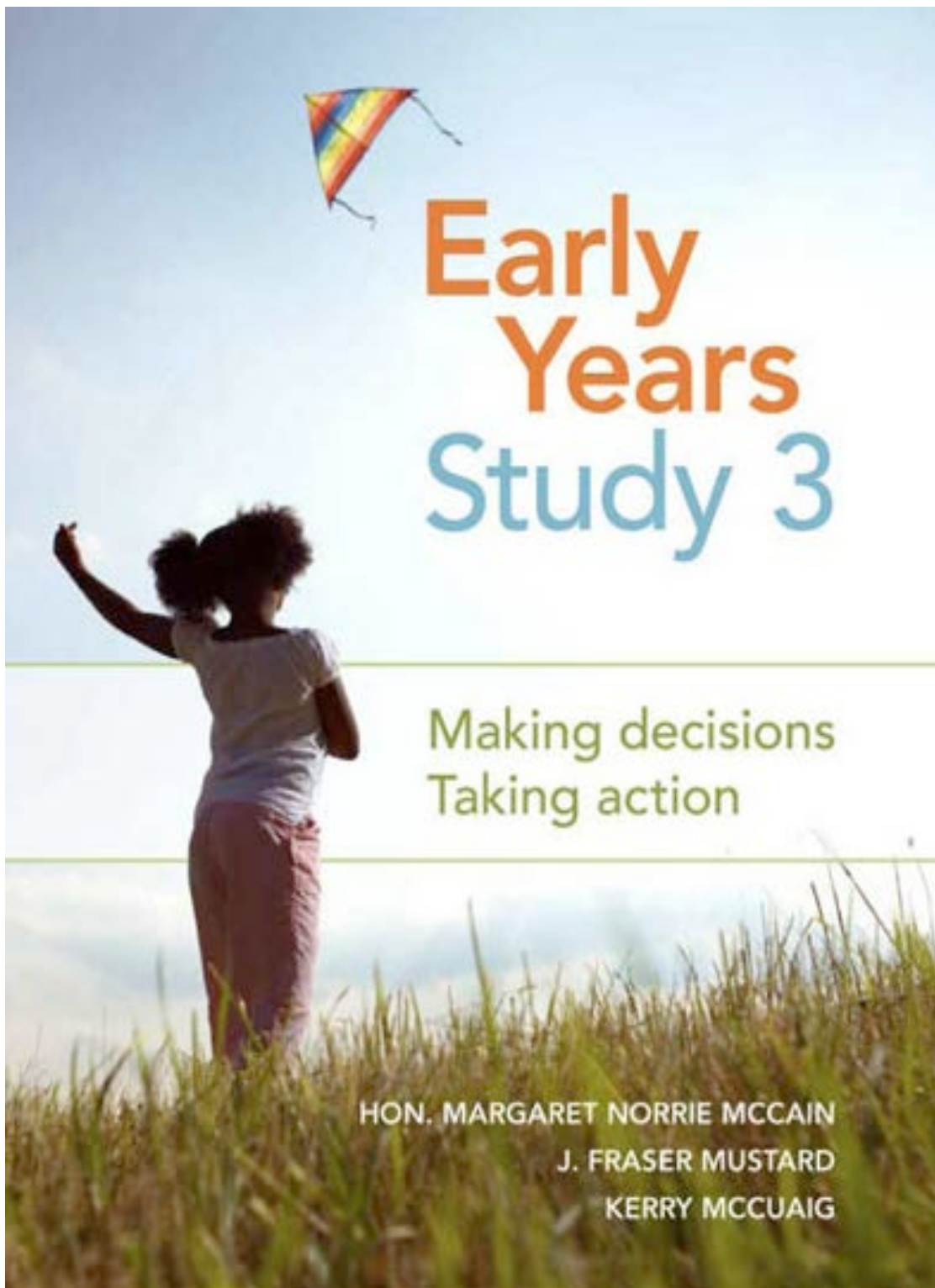
*translation, not replication, of TFD*



**Be Ready for Success  
A 10 year Early Childhood Strategy  
for New Brunswick**

**Securing The Future  
For Our Children**  
Preschool Excellence Initiative





## Early Childhood Education

- Regular participation
- Children with other children
- Qualified educators
- Intentional pedagogy/teaching



# Early Childhood Education Report

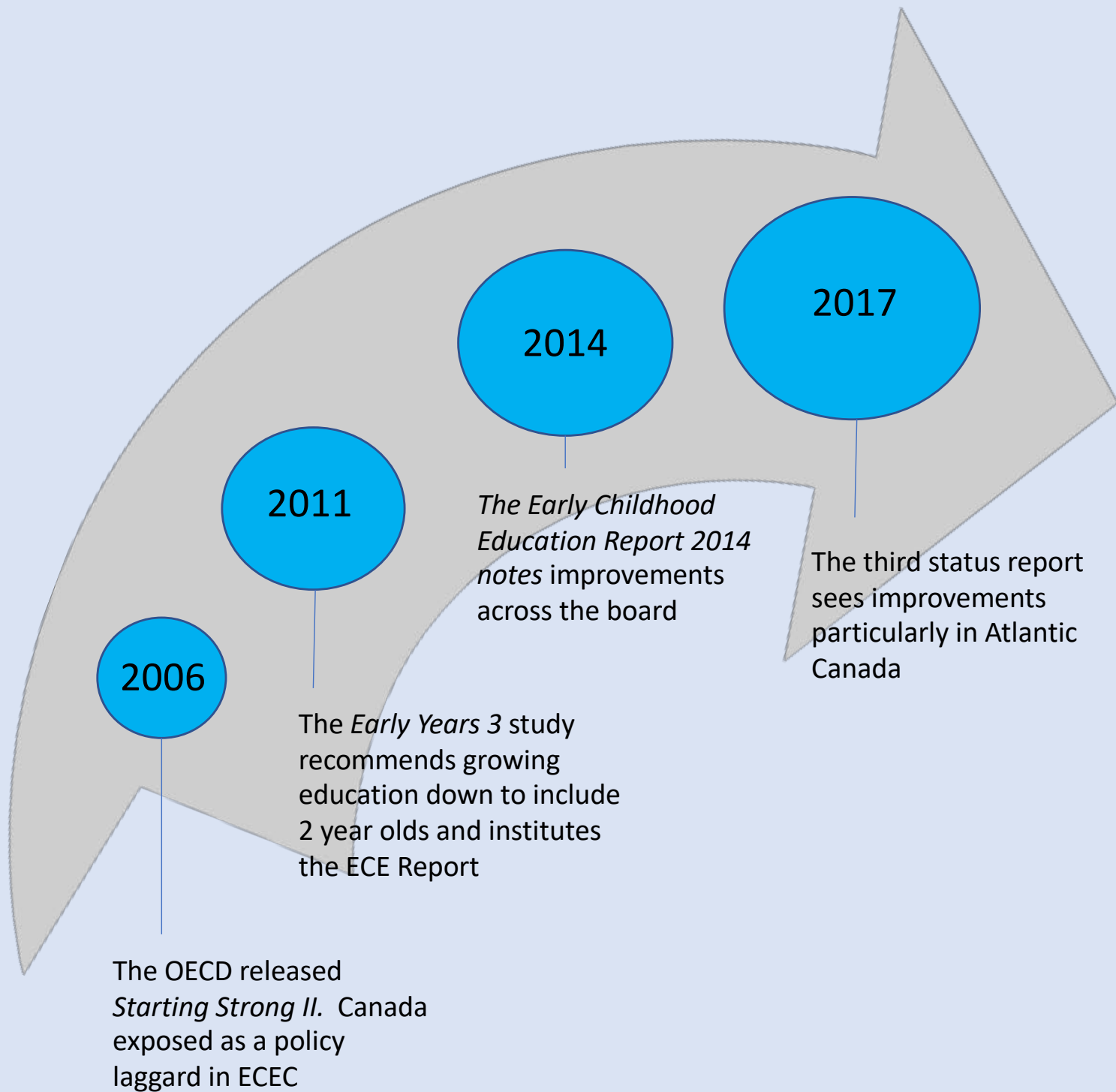
**Kerry McCuaig and Emis Akbari, Ph.D.**

Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

University of Toronto





# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT BENCHMARKS OF QUALITY

5 CATEGORIES

19 BENCHMARKS

15 POINTS

1 INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE	2 FUNDING	3 ACCESS	4 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	5 ACCOUNTABILITY
<p>0.5 ECE under common department/ministry</p> <p>0.5 Common ECE supervisory unit</p> <p>1 Common ECE policy framework</p> <p>1 Common local authority for ECE administration and delivery</p>	<p>1 At least 2/3 of child care funding goes to program operations</p> <p>1 Mandated salary and fee scale in licensed child care</p> <p>1 At least 3% of overall budget devoted to ECE</p>	<p>1 Full day kindergarten offered</p> <p>1 50% of 2 to 4 year olds regularly attend an ECE program</p> <p>1 Funding conditional on including children with special needs in licensed child care</p>	<p>0.5 ECE curriculum framework</p> <p>0.5 Alignment of ECE programs with kindergarten</p> <p>0.5 At least 2/3 of staff in programs for 2 to 4 years olds are qualified</p> <p>0.5 Kindergarten educators require ECE qualifications</p> <p>0.5 Salaries of ECEs are at least 2/3 of teachers</p> <p>0.5 ECE professional certification/professional development required</p>	<p>1 Annual progress reports (2014 or later)</p> <p>1 Standards for ECE programs include kindergarten</p> <p>1 Population measures for preschool collected and reported</p>
3	3	3	3	3

# CHANGE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT RESULTS 2011/2014/2017



Change in  
ECER results  
2011/2014/2017



# Ready for Life: A Socio-Economic Analysis of Early Childhood Education and Care

Alexander et al, 2017

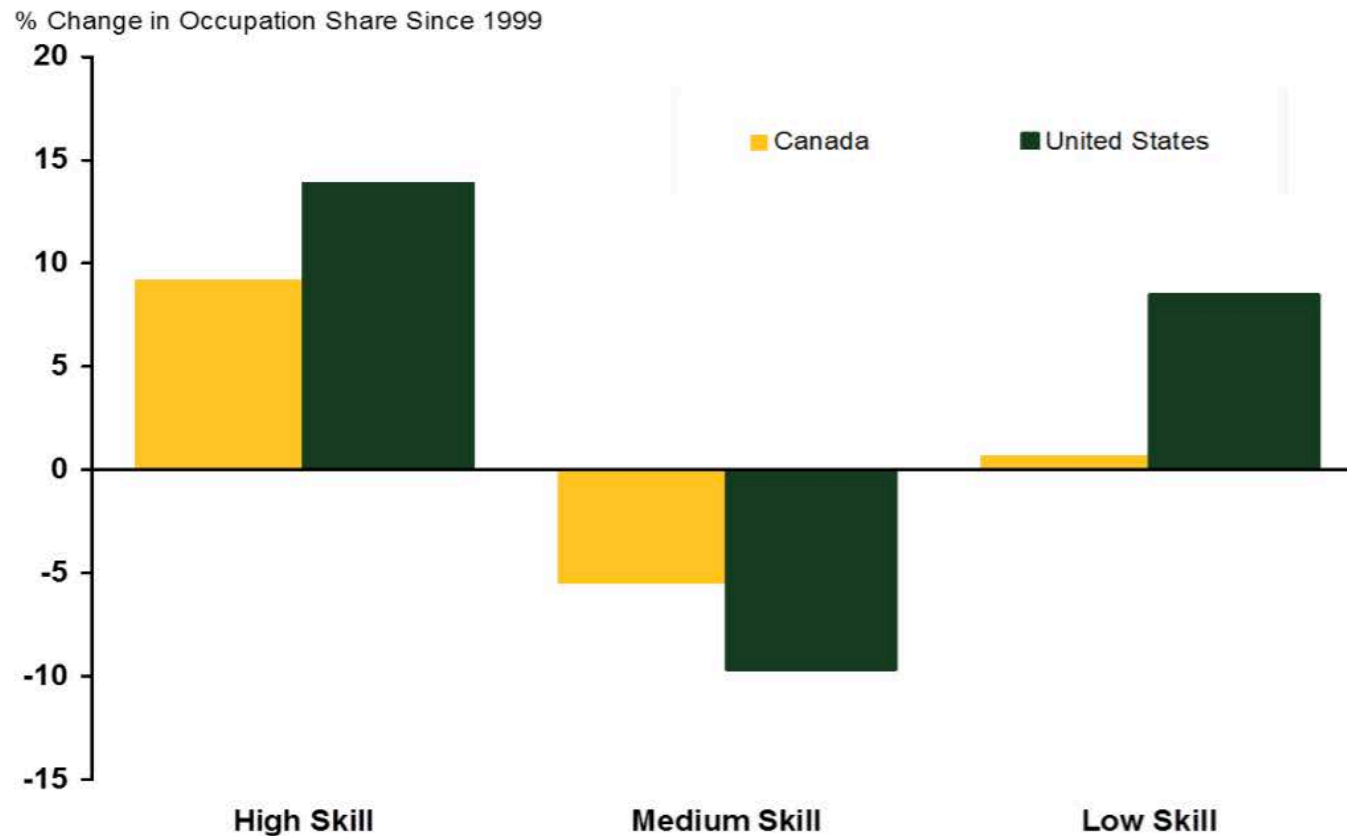
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## Return on Investment in ECE

\$3 short-term return for every \$1 spent

\$6 long-term return for every \$1 spent

# Labour Demand Fundamentally Changed



\* Canada's data encompasses 1999-2012, whereas U.S. data cover 1999-2009.

Source: TD Economics, Statistics Canada, BLS, David Autor (MIT)



The Conference Board  
of Canada

Le Conference Board  
du Canada

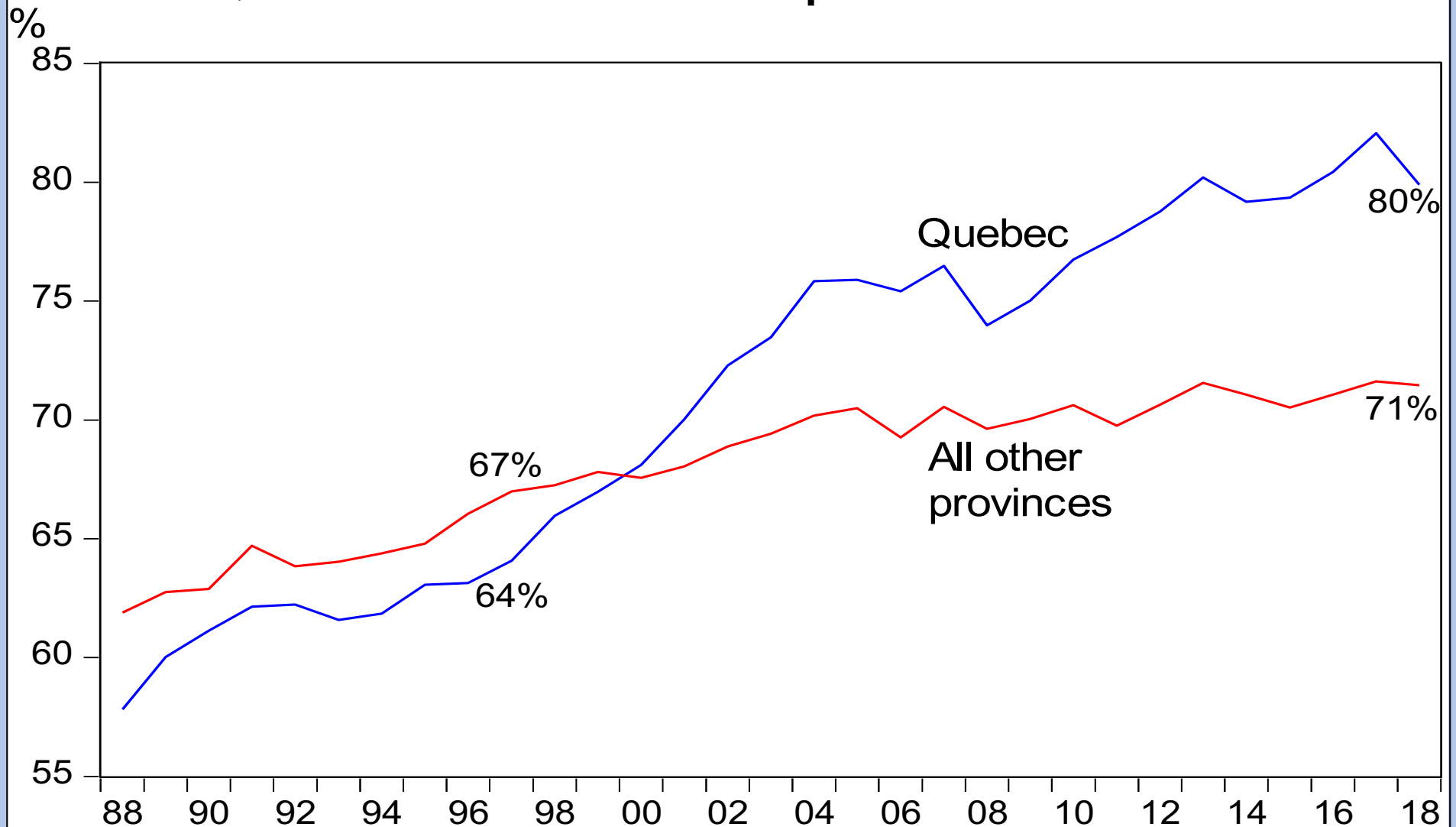
# How to address rising income inequality

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- Redistribute more income through higher taxes on wealthy.
- Problem is greater taxation on the top 1% or 10% won't solve the problem. They are simply too few in number.
- So, need higher taxes on middle income individuals. Less politically appealing and they have had weak income growth
- A more impactful approach is to **remove barriers to opportunity.**
- Help improve labour outcomes for low and middle income workers
- ECE can do this. It can help raise future income prospects of disadvantaged kids and can lift labour participation of women

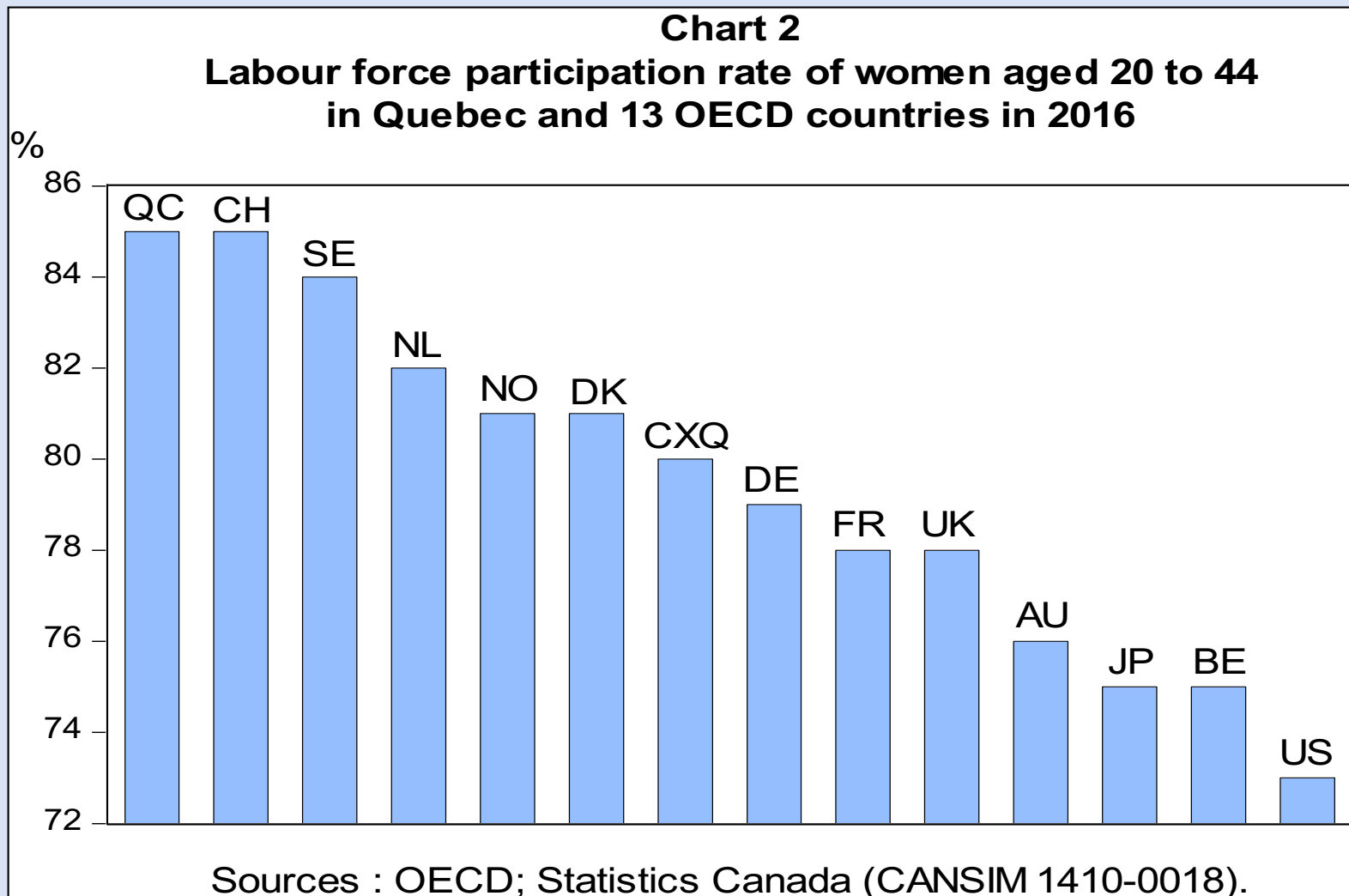
**Chart 1**

**Labour force participation rate of mothers of 0-5 children  
in Quebec and other Canadian provinces from 1988 to 2018**



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM 1410-0120).

# Labour force participation of mothers: Quebec compared to OECD countries



# Summary

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- Additional investment in ECE will boost maternal labour force participation.
- Providing access to at least more than one year of ECE can improve math scores.
- Cost benefit analysis aligns with other research: ECE is a good investment, with many gains, including reducing inequality.
- Indeed, boosting female labour market participation lowers the Gini coefficient for families with young children and lifts many families out of poverty.
- Additional investments in ECE are recommended.

# Early Child Development Funders Working Group

**ATKINSON**  
FOUNDATION

**Prévention**  
Fondation Lucie  
et André Chagnon



LYLE S. HALLMAN  
FOUNDATION


**LAWSON**  
FOUNDATION

**MWM**  
Margaret & Wallace McCain  
Family Foundation

THE J.W. McCONNELL  
FAMILY FOUNDATION  
LA FONDATION DE LA  
FAMILLE J.W. McCONNELL



The Muttart Foundation

  
JIMMY  
**PRATT**  
FOUNDATION

Atkinson Centre, OISE, University of Toronto - Secretariat

# Early Child Development Funders Working Group

.....a cross-Canada learning network; a deeply shared commitment to children; a link among eight very diverse foundations.....

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Early Child Development Funders Working Group website. The header features the title "A Smart Investment in the Future" on the left and a language selector "Français" on the right. Below the title are social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. An orange navigation bar contains the following links: Home, About, Read the Open Letter, Q&A, News & Resources, and Contact. The main content area features a large photograph of a diverse group of young children sitting together and smiling. Overlaid on the bottom left of this image is a text box that reads: "Investing in our children is investing in the future of our country. The best way to do this is through high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care." Below this text is an orange button labeled "READ THE OPEN LETTER". At the bottom of the page, a white banner contains the text "A shared commitment to children." in orange.

A Smart Investment in the Future

Français

Home About Read the Open Letter Q&A News & Resources Contact

Investing in our children is investing in the future of our country. The best way to do this is through high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care.

READ THE OPEN LETTER

A shared commitment to children.



## UNICEF, 2019 Childcare and Working Families – New Opportunity or Missing Link – UNICEF, 2019

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*The historic bifurcation of childcare and education or childcare and health stands in the way of addressing the whole needs of families. The new vision for childcare must be seen as an opportunity rather than a deficit, and as an opportunity to promote safety and security, health, nutrition, education and responsive caregiving – all key elements of nurturing care.*

.....‘triple dividend’ of young children’s positive development, women’s empowerment and economic growth.....



**EARLY YEARS STUDY™**  
Thriving Kids, Thriving Society

[Earlyyearsstudy.ca](http://Earlyyearsstudy.ca)