



2004 FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE PRACTITIONERS IN NOVA SCOTIA

- As of February 2002, there were approximately 1,134 child care practitioners working in full-day child care programs, and an estimated 300 working in part-day child care¹.
- Child Care providers are educated and skilled. In 2001, 70% of child care practitioners in Canada held a post-secondary credential in early childhood education and care.
- In Nova Scotia, as of May 2001, child care directors make an average of \$13.32 per hour; assistant directors make an average of \$10.31 per hour; special needs teachers make on average \$9.22 per hour, and teachers make on average \$7.87 per hour².
- Studies show that the negative aspects of the child care profession most frequently cited by child care practitioners in Nova Scotia include:
 - Low salary/ benefits & poor promotion opportunities -- 89.4%
 - Lack of respect for the work by general public -- 49.8%
 - General working conditions-- 26.4%³
- Child care is a professional field. In Nova Scotia, eight post secondary institutions offer early childhood care and education programs, ranging from four year degrees to one and two year diplomas. In March 2002, about 500 students were enrolled in these programs⁴.

¹ *Nova Scotia Baseline Report: Building an Early Childhood Development System for Nova Scotia*. (2002). Nova Scotia Department of Community Services

² *Nova Scotia Baseline Report: Building an Early Childhood Development System for Nova Scotia*. (2002). Nova Scotia Department of Community Services.

³ Ferguson, E. E. (2002). *Reflecting on Attracting and Keeping Qualified Staff in Child Care*. Child Care Connections Nova Scotia.

⁴ *Nova Scotia Baseline Report: Building an Early Childhood Development System for Nova Scotia*. (2002). Nova Scotia Department of Community Services