



SOUTH OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN Child Care Action Plan

April 2021



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Executive Summary

High-quality, accessible, and affordable child care is essential to the well-being of children, their families, and the broader community. Furthermore, it is now widely recognized that child care plays a critical role in economic development, poverty reduction, gender equality, social inclusion, and healthy child development.

In recognition of this, the District of Summerland, the Town of Princeton, the Town of Oliver, the Village of Keremeos, and the Regional District of South Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) partnered to develop a regional **South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Action Plan**. This Action Plan reflects the commitment of the five jurisdictions to work together as the communities of the South Okanagan-Similkameen are interconnected and many partnerships and opportunities to address child care needs exist at the regional level. The project partners recognize that they can effectively support their families and children in each community by working together.

Funding for this project was provided by the Union of BC Municipalities from the Child Care Planning Grants Program.

About the Action Plan

The South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Planning Project was launched in July 2020. This 10-year Action Plan is informed by a review of promising practices from other jurisdictions; a review of current policy and planning frameworks for each partnering community; current demographic and child care service information; and engagement with a wide range of community stakeholders and partners.

Engagement activities included an online survey of 254 parents and caregivers with 432 children aged 0 to 12, interviews with 71 key stakeholders and partners, and three virtual solutions workshops with 37 participants.

The Action Plan includes 41 evidence-based recommendations around four strategic priority areas, closely aligned with the Province's child care commitments:

1. Increasing accessibility
2. Improving affordability
3. Focusing on quality
4. Strengthening partnerships

The Action Plan begins with an overview of the regional context and recommended actions applicable to all participating partners, followed by separate background and recommended space targets for each jurisdiction.

Government Policy Context

This Action Plan is based on the recognition and understanding that Provincial and Federal government have the primary roles in child care policy and funding. Local governments do not have the mandate or resources to address child care gaps on their own.

However, local governments do have the most in-depth understand of local context, needs, and opportunities. This is also an important moment of opportunity. The Provincial and Federal governments have both prioritized child care and recognize child care as vital to economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Both senior levels of government have made commitments to developing universal child care systems and by partnering with senior levels of government at this time, local governments are positioned to make significant progress in addressing the child care needs in their communities.

Recommendations

Increasing Access

Many families need but cannot access child care. While access to child care is a challenge for all families, underserved and more vulnerable populations often face additional barriers.

For the communities participating in this project, there are currently 19 licensed spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12 years. However, for school aged children there are only 14 spaces for every 100 children and for infants and toddlers, there are only 4 spaces for every 100 children. Because of the limited number of spaces, parents seeking child care often face long wait times. Among respondents to the Parent & Caregiver Survey, 73% of children were on waitlists for over six months and 42% were on waitlists for over one year. In addition to the overall shortage in spaces, there are no licensed child care options available for parents who need care beyond typical Monday to Friday daytime hours.

Key actions to increase access to child care include:

- Endorse targets to facilitate the creation of 1,100 new licensed spaces over the next ten years.
- Develop a South Okanagan Regional Child Care Policy and an on-going Child Care Action group.
- Work with other public partners to identify opportunities for child care development and to access Provincial capital funds to build new spaces.

Improving Affordability

Affordability is a major barrier to child care access, with disproportionate negative impacts on low income and more vulnerable families who need support. According to the most recent fee survey conducted by the Child Care Resource & Referral in 2017, monthly child care fees for children not yet in school ranged from \$600 to \$1065. Many families who would qualify for the Provincial fee subsidy program are not aware that they are eligible.

Key actions to improve affordability of child care include:

- Support not-for-profit child care centres with grants and leases for government-owned land at no cost or below-market rates, to enable them to lower fees for families.
- Partner with the Child Care Resource & Referral to more proactively promote BC's Affordable Child Care Benefit program to child care providers and families.
- Advocate to senior governments to reduce the cost of child care for families.

Focusing on Quality

Children deserve access to safe, high-quality child care arrangements. The research shows that when child care staff have higher levels of education and training, feel appreciated, and are well-supported, the quality of care increases. The evidence also suggests that not-for-profit and publicly operated child care generally offers higher quality of care than for-profit child care.

Key actions to promote a focus on quality include:

- Lead on quality when considering development of local government-owned child care spaces, such as by ensuring staff are fully qualified and well compensated.
- Explore creation of local guidelines around facility design informed by research on best practices.
- Support the Province's "Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy".
- Explore ways to increase local ECE training and practicum opportunities.

Strengthening Partnerships

Child care involves many parties playing various roles, which means it requires intentional relationships and collaboration between and across jurisdictions. It is not possible for any one actor to effectively address the child care needs alone.

Some key actions to strengthen partnerships include:

- Develop strong partnerships and joint planning protocol with School Districts
- Build collaborative and learning relationships with Métis and First Nations, to support Indigenous culture, perspectives and history into child care.
- Advocate to senior levels of governments to support the child care sector and families.
- Share information and collaborate with the City of Penticton and the Town of Osoyoos on regional actions and ongoing planning.

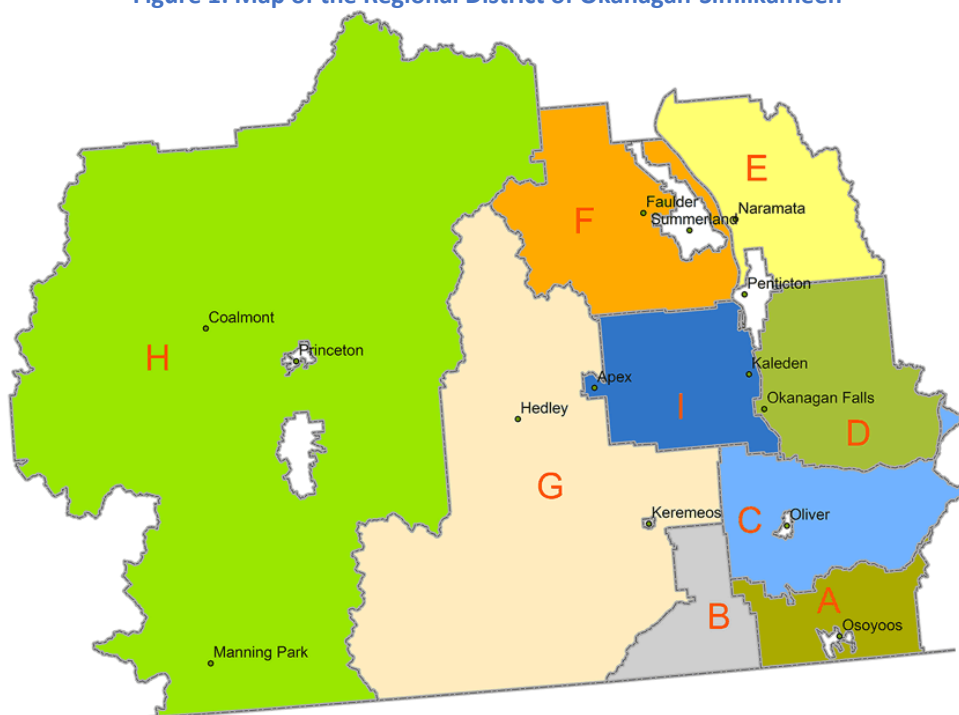
Finally, to ensure this Action Plan remains relevant and useful over the ten-year period, it is recommended the Regional District and partnering municipalities work with the proposed Child Care Action Group to implement and monitor progress towards actions in this Action Plan including the child care space creation targets. It will also be critical to monitor ongoing policy developments by senior governments, including the Provincial transition of child care to the Ministry of Education, the Provincial commitment to universal child care, and the Federal commitment to a national child care system.

Introduction

Overview

Recognizing the importance of high-quality child care, the District of Summerland, the Town of Princeton, the Town of Oliver, the Village of Keremeos and the Regional District of South Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) partnered to develop a regional **South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Action Plan (the Action Plan)**. While the City of Penticton and Town of Osoyoos were not direct partners in this project, ongoing collaboration with both municipalities will be critical to address child care need across the region. The City of Penticton participated in the Steering Committee for this project and has recently completed their own Child Care Action Plan which is complementary to this Action Plan.

Figure 1: Map of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen



In 2020, there were approximately 770 child care spaces in the study area, serving a population of 3,935 children (2016). This means there are 19 spaces per 100 children from birth to age twelve. However, access rates vary greatly between jurisdictions and age groups. There are only 4 infant-toddler spaces for every 100 children under three and 14 spaces for every 100 school age children. There are no child care spaces for children under three at all in Keremeos, Summerland or the nine unincorporated Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I.

The Action Plan identifies local needs and recommends actions to achieve strategic goals that address service gaps and improve child care provision. The Action Plan focuses on setting targets for the provision of additional licensed child care spaces for children birth to 12 and begins with an overview of the regional context and recommended actions applicable to all participating jurisdictions, followed by separate background and recommended space targets for each jurisdiction.

Importance of Child Care

Access to quality child care has profound benefits for children, their families, and the broader community. Research shows that quality early childhood programming promotes cognitive and social development, helping children do better in school, enjoy improved physical and mental health, and experience many other benefits throughout their lives. Child care is a vital part of a community's social infrastructure and contributes significantly to the local economy.

As highlighted even further by the COVID-19 pandemic, access to child care is critical for labour force participation, especially for mothers. Child care support for working parents contributes to gender equality, social inclusion, and reduced poverty rates for families with children. In turn, the social and economic contributions of parents and caregivers in the workplace benefit the entire community, with ripple effects throughout the economy in terms of GDP growth, tax revenue, and employment opportunities. At a local level, child care not only helps attract families to communities, but it also assists employers to attract and retain talented staff and is itself a source of local employment.

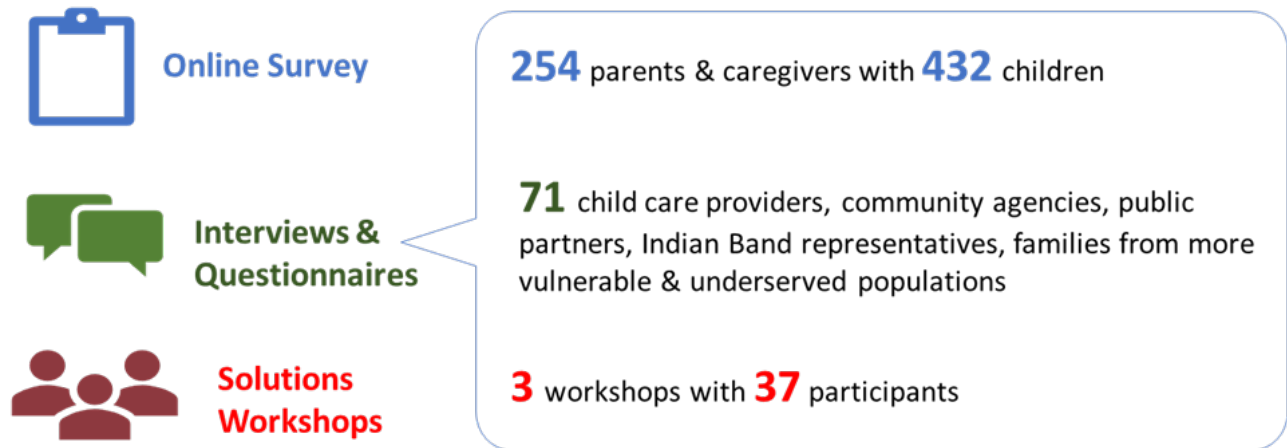
Scope and Purpose

The Action Plan presents evidence-based concrete actions to improve access to high quality child care in the South Okanagan-Similkameen over the next ten years. It includes goals and actions for the short term (2021-2023), medium term (2024 - 2026), and long term (2027 – 2031).

Early learning and child care policy, and funding is primarily a Provincial responsibility, with some Federal involvement. Local and regional governments do not have the mandate or resources to fully address unmet need for child care on their own. However, by working together, the communities of the South Okanagan-Similkameen region can strengthen the positions of each separate jurisdiction. Not only are the region's child care systems and supports interconnected, but families also currently secure services wherever they are available and existing partnerships and opportunities are often regional. Strong partnerships amongst all levels of government and local organizations, along with dedicated support from the senior levels of government, are needed to ensure the success of this Action Plan.

Process and Methodology

The Action Plan has been informed by promising practices from other jurisdictions; a review of current policy and planning frameworks for each partnering community; current demographics and child care service information (see Appendix D); and engagement with a wide range of community stakeholders and partners (see Appendix C). The engagement processes served to build both knowledge and relationships.



This Action Plan, along with the supplementary Parent and Caregiver Survey Report and the Review of Promising Planning Practices & Child Care Research Findings are available on the partner websites. The appendices to this Action Plan include a summary of all recommendations, a glossary of child care types in BC, the Community Engagement Summary Report, and the Community Profile Report.

Government Policy Context

This Action Plan was developed at a time of growing public recognition of the importance of child care and new Provincial and Federal commitments to building a universal child care system.

Federal Government

The Federal government provides direct child care funding support to selected population groups, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and families. It also provides tax deductions for eligible child care expenses and maternity and parental benefits through Employment Insurance. Additionally, the Federal government has allocated funds to implement the [Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework](#) and the [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework](#), identified school age care as a priority, and most recently, in the throne speech (September 2020), announced plans to invest in a national child care system.

Provincial Government

In 2018, the Province made a commitment to create a universal, high quality, publicly funded child care system that makes child care affordable and available for any family that needs or wants it. To meet this commitment, the Provincial government has developed a 10-year plan, [Child Care BC](#), which included a \$1.3 billion dollar investment in the first three years. This Action Plan incorporates several initiatives to increase the number child care spaces, reduce parent fees, and improve quality.

Capital funding for new child care spaces is distributed through the [Child Care BC New Spaces Fund](#). Child care expenses for families have been reduced through the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#) and [Affordable Child Care Benefit](#), as well as the establishment of \$10-a-day universal child care prototype sites. The Province has also worked to address staffing challenges in the child care sector with a wage enhancement for early childhood educators and increased support for training. The Provincial Government also provides funding for Aboriginal Head Start programs to include child care, which is the first Provincial investment toward Indigenous-led child care.

While Provincial responsibility for child care currently spans three ministries (Children and Family Development, Health, and Education), the Province has announced that child care will be integrated into the Ministry of Education by 2023 and they have articulated a mandate for universal school age child care, with priority for spaces on school grounds.

Local Governments

While Federal and Provincial governments have the primary responsibility for child care policy and funding for programs, local governments play an important and unique role in helping improve child care access, affordability, and quality for families in their community. Although they do not have a legislated or mandated role in child care, local and regional governments have an important planning and coordination role, as well as the most in-depth understanding of local context and needs. The Action Plan identifies actions that may enable local governments to make a real difference for families in the region.

Regional Child Care Priorities and Actions

The Action Plan is organized around four priorities, in alignment with the Provincial plan for universal child care:

1. Increasing accessibility
2. Improving affordability
3. Focusing on quality
4. Strengthening partnerships

For each priority, we summarize relevant regional information, data and input from the community engagement work to provide a solid base of knowledge and facts. This is followed by a series of recommended short and long-term actions for the four municipalities and the Regional District. Many of the suggestions require collaboration and partnership, and key partners are noted where applicable.

Priority 1: Increase Access to Child Care

Child care is a vital part of a community's social infrastructure. All families should be able to choose the child care option that best meet their needs. When parents cannot access child care when and where they need it, they may be forced to make difficult decisions such as using unregulated care arrangements or staying out of the workforce altogether. The Parent and Caregiver Survey also indicated that about one quarter of families travel outside their communities to access child care.

Many families face additional barriers to navigating the child care system and accessing care that meets their needs. This includes families who are low income, Indigenous, recent immigrants, led by a lone parent, having children with additional support needs, and those from other underserved populations. When child care spaces are scarce, these families are often left behind, further compounding existing inequities.

Current Child Care Availability

For the communities participating in this project, there are a total of 782 licensed child care spaces or 19 licensed spaces for every 100 children from ages 0 to 12 years. For comparison, this is about the same as the coverage rate across the province (20 spaces per 100 children) but lower than the national coverage rate of 30 spaces per 100 children. As shown in the Table 1 below, coverage rates vary widely between communities, ranging from seven spaces per 100 children in the unincorporated electoral areas to 60 spaces per 100 children in Oliver.

Table 1: Current spaces and spaces per 100 children

	Number of Spaces	Spaces per 100 children
Summerland	220	19
Oliver	326	60
Princeton	57	18
Keremeos	42	34
Unincorporated Electoral Areas	122	7
RDOS (excluding Penticton & Osoyoos)	767	19

**Source: Interior Health Community Care Licensing. Census 2016 population data.*

Availability of child care also varies greatly by age group. As shown in Table 2 below, while the overall coverage rate for the region is 19 spaces per 100 children, there are **31** group spaces available for every 100 preschooler age children (3 to 5 years but not yet in school), compared with **14** spaces for every 100 school age children (5 years and in school up to 12 years) and only **4** spaces for every 100 children under three years. Only two communities in the region even have group infant-toddler (under 3 years) spaces.

Table 2: Licensed group child care spaces per 100 children

	Infant-Toddler	Preschooler	School Ager	Total
Summerland	0	33	15	19
Oliver	20	95	42	60
Princeton	12	25	9	18
Keremeos	0	76	0	34
Unincorporated Electoral Areas	0	6	6	7
RDOS (excluding Penticton & Osoyoos)	4	31	14	19

**Source: Interior Health Community Care Licensing. Census 2016 population data.*

Projected Child Population Growth

According to BC Stats population projections, child population for the entire Regional District is projected to increase slightly between 2021 and 2031 (+3.6% or +302 children 0 to 12 years)¹. This means that new child care spaces would need to be created simply to maintain the current rates of access.

Working Families

Across the Regional District, among families with at least one child under the age of six, 76% of couple parent families have at least two earners and 75% of lone parent families have at least one earner. This suggests that in most households with young children, all parents are working.



3 in 4 parents with children under age 6 are **working**.

¹ The population projections shown here are based on the BC Stats P.E.O.P.L.E 2020 projections. For population projections for Summerland, Princeton, South Okanagan, and Keremeos Local Health Areas, please refer to each jurisdiction's section of this report.

There are only licensed child care spaces available for 4% of children under three and 31% of preschooler age children. Working parents often need to rely on a patchwork of reduced work hours, alternating shifts, and unlicensed care arrangements. While some of these unlicensed care arrangements are working well for families, our Parent and Caregiver Survey found that 56% of those currently using parental care and 55% of those using an unlicensed care arrangement said that they would like to change their current care arrangement if a preferred alternative became available at a price they could afford. Among all parents who would like to change their current care arrangement, 84% would prefer some form of licensed care.

"I am desperately trying to go back to work but I cannot because I cannot find child care. My only potential, long shot option right now is a random person unlicensed I do not know. I shouldn't have to make that choice.

I feel like I live in 1950 and even though I'm a professional I am having to give up my career just because of child care. I'm devastated."

- Parent & Caregiver Survey Respondent

Waitlists

Waitlist and wait times are an important indicator of unmet child care demand. According to the Parent and Caregiver Survey, 54% of children currently using a form of care other than a parent or relative were previously on a waitlist to secure that arrangement. Waitlists were most common for children under 3 (71%), followed by children 3 to 5 not yet in school (62%) and school age children (31%). 73% of children who were previously on a waitlist had wait times of over six months, including 42% who experienced wait times of over one year.



73% of children were on waitlists for over 6 months

42% were on waitlists for over one year

"We waited for a very long time and called every child care provider frequently for updates. It was an extremely frustrating and tedious process. And very stressful trying to manage work before we had care."

- Parent & Caregiver Survey respondent

Hours of Operation

About one-third of all working parents represented in the Parent and Caregiver Survey work beyond typical Monday to Friday hours. However, there are currently no licensed child care programs in the region offering extended hours of care (i.e., before 6 am and/or after 7 pm) or overnight care. This means parents with variable work schedules or who do shift work, which includes many low-income families, have few care options. 50% of all Parent Survey respondents said extended hours and/or days of operation would help improve their current child care situation.

Families also told us it is difficult to find part-time care and that they sometimes have no choice but to pay for full-time care they do not need. 48% of Survey respondents said increased availability of part-time care would help improve their child care situation.

“Early mornings are the hardest. No daycare opens early enough for shift workers. Daycares only seem to accommodate those who work 8-4. This is not realistic.”

– Parent & Caregiver Survey respondent

Access for All Populations

All children deserve care that meets their needs and ensures they are welcome, included, and respected.

For the communities participating in this project, 6% of residents are Indigenous. In the region, both Penticton Indian Band and Lower Similkameen Indian Band offer child care and parent drop-in programs that incorporate Indigenous language and culture. Lower Similkameen Indian Band has also been offering local early childhood education (ECE) training.

Immigrants represent 15% of the population in the Regional District. Newcomer families and children may have additional barriers to accessing child care, including language barriers and gaps in implicit knowledge around navigating the local child care system.

In the 2019/20 school year, the share of elementary school children who were identified as having additional support needs was 14% in School District 53, 12% in School District 58, and 10% in School District 67². Children who require additional supports are sometimes denied access to the limited number of child care spaces that are available. It is very difficult for families to find spaces that they can afford and that offer an adequate level of support that meets their child’s needs.

² Source: BC Government. Open Data Catalogue - Student Enrollment and FTE by Grade.

One-quarter of all children (24%) in the Regional District live in lone parent families. Child care is especially critical for lone parent families that are dependent on one income. In addition to financial challenges, lone parents often face other barriers to accessing child care, including unaffordable fees, difficulties navigating the child care system, and lack of flexibility in drop-off and pick-up times.

The University of British Columbia's Human Early Learning Partnership ([HELP Early Development Instrument](#)) is used to assess the vulnerability of kindergarten students on one or more scales of well-being and development, which means that without additional support and care, these children may experience future challenges in school and beyond. Vulnerability rates for School Districts in the region ranged from 29% in School District 58, 34% in School District 67, and 40% in School District 53. Children who are vulnerable could benefit the most from high quality early childhood education experiences.

"There are times I have had to resort to being on welfare due to lack of child care in this town, though I have many good jobs available."

– Parent & Caregiver Survey respondent

Recommendations

This Action Plan includes 41 recommendations to be considered by the five partner local governments. The recommendations are presented for each of the four strategic areas: accessibility, affordability, quality and partnerships. For regional recommendations, it will be critical for project partners to work together, identify key leads, and collaborate to ensure a consistent, regional approach. To this end, it is worth noting the City of Penticton has recently completed its [Child Care Action Plan](#) and was represented on the Steering Committee for this project. The Town of Osoyoos also has child care work underway. Ongoing collaboration with both municipalities will further the goal of a cohesive regional approach to addressing child care needs.

All recommendations include suggested time frames and external partners. It is worth noting that UBCM has recently completed [Stepping Stones: Child Care Planning Guides for BC's Local Governments](#) which includes tool and resources that may be helpful when implementing the recommended actions.

Tables 3 and 4 outline the first set of recommended actions, to increase accessibility of child care in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region. For the purposes of this Action Plan, short term is defined as between 2021 and 2023, medium term is 2024 to 2026, and long term is 2027 to 2031.

Table 3: Policy and planning recommendations to increase accessibility

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
Policy and Planning			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1	Develop a South Okanagan Similkameen Regional Child Care Policy for local governments, providing a consolidated statement of the Region's vision, goals, strategies and commitments to child care, including a strong link to the City of Penticton and the Town of Osoyoos Child Care Action Plans	Short	School Districts 53, 58, 67, child care operators, community agencies, City of Penticton and Town of Osoyoos
2	Review and amend Official Community Plans (OCPs) to: a) Include reference to the importance of child care to overall economic and social wellbeing; and b) Incorporate specific goals, policies, and strategies for facilitating or encouraging development of child care in the region (e.g., through collaboration with School Districts and other partners). For example, City of Coquitlam's OCP states "it is important that the City uses its policy and regulatory tools to support the development of a sufficient number of child care spaces to meet community need and to enhance neighbourhood livability".	Short/Medium	School Districts 53, 58, 67, child care operators, community agencies

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
3	Endorse the space targets identified in this report, recognizing that local governments do not have the mandate and resources to reach the targets alone. • Infant/Toddler: 221 new spaces or 33% coverage rate • Preschooler: 231 new spaces or 50% coverage rate • School Ager: 648 new spaces or 33% coverage rate Please see section on Space Targets below for details.	Short	Child Care Providers, School Districts 53, 58 & 67, Interior Health, Community Agencies
4	Establish a Regional Child Care Action Group comprised of representatives from the child care sector, community service providers, the School Districts and key staff from each of the project partner jurisdictions (Summerland, Keremeos, Princeton, Oliver and the Regional District). Staff from the City of Penticton and Town of Osoyoos should also be invited to join the group. This group would work together to focus on: a) Assessing evolving child care needs b) Implementing and monitoring the Child Care Action Plan c) Tracking changes related to the shift of child care to the Ministry of Education	Short/Medium/Long	Not-for-profit providers, School Districts 53, 58, 67, community agencies and service providers, Interior Health Licensing, First Nations Bands, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos, post-secondary institutions
5	Formally identify a current staff position in each partner jurisdiction to be the internal and external child care point-person. This role would be to provide leadership on child care planning, monitoring the Action Plan and to support prospective child care space applications through local government permit and licensing processes.	Short	None

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
6	Explore the feasibility of a region-wide inter-jurisdictional staff position dedicated to child care which would focus on: a) Monitoring the progress of implementing the recommendations and meeting targets b) Reporting annually to Councils, the RDOS Board, the School Districts c) Facilitating partnerships, and engaging with the Province, the three school districts, Interior Health and community partners d) Identifying locations for new, not-for-profit and public, quality child care	Medium/Long	School Districts 53, 58 & 67, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
7	Work with other public partners (e.g., Interior Health, School Districts 53, 38 & 67, local First Nations) to create (and then maintain) an inventory of prospective opportunities for child care development by identifying: a) Potential land or facilities that could be used for child care b) Underutilized or vacant spaces or land, including schools, parks or crown land that could be repurposed for child care c) Public assets (buildings and land) that are slated for capital redevelopment (i.e., local hospital) d) Existing child care facilities that have expansion potential e) Buildings that may be slated for demolition	Short/Medium/Long	Interior Health, School Districts 53, 58 & 67, not-for-profit child care providers, post-secondary institutions

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
8	Work with public partners to access Provincial capital funds to build child care spaces and consider: a) Developing building models/prototypes and high-level cost estimates to facilitate planning for new child care facilities, exploring both permanent and modular builds b) Exploring a structured partnership with the Province for multiple programs and multiple sites c) Consider ways to support non-profit and public partners to complete the grant application and/or develop their budget for the construction costs	Short/Medium	Province, not-for-profit operators
9	Build formal partnerships and joint planning protocols with the School Districts to: a) Structure regular and ongoing communication between the local governments and School Districts b) Support the Provincial direction of universal school age care and the commitment to move child care to the Ministry of Education c) Facilitate the use of school spaces and grounds for school age care operations, where possible d) Explore expansion of School District 53's seamless before and after school model to all school districts e) Explore the use of empty, surplus school land and buildings for infant/toddler and preschooler age child care; and f) Explore innovative opportunities for school age programming on professional development days and school breaks including summer	Short/Medium	School Districts 53, 58, 67

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
10	Commit to maintaining accurate and up-to-date data to support child care planning by: a) Updating the Action Plan's Community Profile when new census data is available b) Working with the Child Care Resource & Referral Program and Interior Health to keep the Child Care Space Inventory up-to-date	Ongoing	Child Care Resource and Referral Program, Interior Health
11	Employ a 'child care lens' in all future plans and policies (e.g., affordable housing, economic development), ensuring that the child care impacts and opportunities are considered as the plans and policies are being developed.	Short/Medium/Long	BC Housing, Interior Health
12	Work with the Child Care Action Group and current providers to further explore options for offering more flexible child care services including, but not limited to: a) Further needs assessments with community members/employers who work in '24-hour' sectors, such as tourism, health, emergency services and those who work in agricultural/seasonal sectors b) Offering more part-time spaces or longer hours in the current programs (e.g., rather than 25 spaces of full-time in a program, offer 23 full time and 2 spaces that are available 2 to 3 days per week each)	Medium	Child Care Action Group suggested in recommendation # 4, Province, Interior Health, not-for-profit providers, School Districts, Employers
13	Work with internal and external partners to develop informal after-school programs that support children aged 10-12 years (the age group which is less likely to attend licensed programs)	Medium	Not-for-profit sector, School District 53, 57 and 68

Table 4: Regulations and development processes recommendations to increase accessibility

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
Regulations and Development Processes			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
14	Review all zoning bylaws to ensure that: a) The language is consistent (e.g., referring to 'child care' rather than 'day care'), modern, and transparent b) Child care uses can be accommodated in all zoning districts provided that there is no threat to children's health and safety c) Other appropriate provisions for accommodating child care are identified (i.e., safe parking area including space for drop off/pick up, ample outdoor space)	Medium	Not-for-profit providers, School District 53, 57 and 68, Interior Health
15	When facilitating or planning new spaces, wherever possible, prioritize: a) Spaces for age groups which are most underserved, namely infant/toddler and school-age b) Spaces that serve multiple ages in one location and offer flexible services like part-time or non-traditional hours c) Building child care spaces on existing publicly owned land and build onto existing public facilities such as community centres (rather than stand-alone structures) d) Development in areas of the Region with lower access rates and/or growing populations and in locations that are easily accessible for families	Short/Medium/Long	Child Care providers, School District 53, 57 and 68, Interior Health

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
16	Host regional child care information meetings for potential child care providers who are interested in opening child care spaces, covering such matters as the roles of both local governments and Interior Health in licensing, and provision of information on the planning and approval processes in each jurisdiction.	Short/Medium	Interior Health, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
17	Gather and centralize comprehensive information about child care for families and child care providers on local government websites, highlighting the following: a) Information for families seeking child care (e.g., links to the Child Care Resource and Referral and the BC Child Care Map) b) Information for prospective child care operators (e.g., a step-by-step guide to procedures, submission requirements, zoning, information, permits and links to BC's licensing regulations, with the information aligning with Interior Health where appropriate).	Medium	Child care providers, Interior Health, Child Care Resource and Referral Program
18	Work with Interior Health Community Care Licensing to review both the local government and health authority regulations and processes for 'licensing' new child care spaces to explore ways to streamline and collaboratively support approval processes.	Short/Medium	Interior Health, child care providers

Priority 2: Make Child Care More Affordable

Affordability is a major barrier to child care access, with disproportionate negative impacts on low income and more vulnerable families who need additional support. High costs cause financial strain and stress. In some cases, high costs mean parents decide it does not make financial sense for them to participate in the labour force. For others, cost is a barrier to choosing the type of child care arrangement that would best meet their child's needs.

"I would be able to work a better job if I had cheaper and more flexible child care. Right now I am limited in what jobs I can do based on hours I have to be available for my kids."

– Parent & Caregiver Survey respondent

Household Income and Shelter Costs

For the entire Regional District, there is a large gap between median incomes of lone parent and couple parent families. Couple parent families with children under 18 have a median income of \$99,119, compared to \$34,859 for lone parents. Among families with children under 6, the median income for couple parent families is \$87,585, but only \$28,576 for lone parents. Overall, one in five children aged 0 to 14 live in low-income families.

Family budgets for child care fees come after paying other costs, such as shelter, food, clothing, and utilities. Median monthly shelter costs across the Regional District are \$658 for owned dwellings and \$904 for rented dwellings. 47% of renters and 16% of owners are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter.

"Cost of care is way too high. It's more than a mortgage payment and is unaffordable with cost of living in BC."

– Parent & Caregiver Survey respondent

Child Care Fees

The most recent data on monthly child care fees for the South Okanagan-Similkameen region comes from a fee survey conducted by the Child Care Resource & Referral (OneSky Community Resources) in 2017. Since 2017, several Provincial initiatives to address child care affordability have lowered costs for many families, especially those with lower incomes. Despite this welcome progress on affordability, lower fees were the number one factor identified by Parent and Caregiver Survey respondents that would most help improve their child care situation. Many families are not even aware they are eligible for fee subsidies and others who may not qualify for assistance find the cost of a financial strain, sometimes paying more for child care than for their rent or mortgage.

Table 5: Monthly child care costs, South Okanagan-Similkameen, 2017

Monthly Child Care Costs, South Okanagan-Similkameen		
Age Group	Family Child Care	Group Child Care
Infant/Toddler	\$600 - \$1000	\$800 - \$1065
3-5 years	\$600 - \$1000	\$600 - \$950
School Age (before or after)	\$175 - \$500	\$270 - \$330
School Age (before and after)	\$210 - \$540	\$400 - \$500

**Source: Child Care Resource and Referral Fee Survey, 2017.*

Recommendations

Table 6 provides recommended actions to improve affordability. Local governments have limited opportunities to directly and significantly affect the cost of child care. However, they can advocate to senior levels of government. They can also provide support to non-profit operators (e.g., nominal rent for publicly-owned facility space), enabling the operators to offer more affordable fees to families) and offer increased information for families about the available subsidies. For the purposes of this Action Plan, short term is defined as between 2021 and 2023, medium term is 2024 to 2026, and long term is 2027 to 2031.

Table 6: Recommendations to improve affordability

Recommendations to Improve Affordability			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
19	Create a local government grant program for not-for-profit child care centres to assist with facility upgrades and maintenance or to extend operating hours.	Short/Medium	Not-for-profit providers
20	Monitor child care fees in the region to provide up-to-date data about child care affordability	Ongoing	Child Care Resource and Referral Program
21	Lease or rent local government-owned facilities or land to not-for-profit child care providers at no cost or below-market rates.	Ongoing	Not-for-profit providers
22	Advocate to senior governments to reduce the cost of child care for families	Short/Medium/Long	School District 53, 57 and 68, Child Care Operators, community agencies, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
23	Partner with the Child Care Resource and Referral Program to more proactively promote BC's Affordable Child Care Benefit Program for lower income families so that: a) More families are aware of the program and its eligibility criteria and application process (i.e., annual income threshold up to \$111,000) b) More child care providers are aware of the program and can help parents with the application process	Short/Medium/Long	Local child care providers, community agencies, Child Care and Resource Program
24	Work with the Child Care Action Group and local child care providers to explore ways to offer: a) More part-time spaces within existing programs, in turn making the cost of care more affordable for lower income families b) Priority access to some spaces for lower income families	Medium	Child Care Action Group suggested in recommendation # 4, local child care providers, community agencies, Child Care and Resource Program

Priority 3: Focus on Quality

The research is clear that high quality child care is linked to positive outcomes for children, while poor quality care can have negative long-term effects. More generally, parents dropping off their children at their child care arrangement each working day want to feel secure knowing their children will receive safe, high-quality care.

Quality Systems

The Province of BC has committed to an ambitious “systems” approach to universal child care with a focus on quality, affordability, and accessibility. While the direct mandate and authority to build, monitor and assess a quality child care system is within the Provincial Government’s scope, local governments can suggest that actions and investments are aligned with what research has identified as eight commonly accepted elements, as graphically represented below.

These elements are: (1) Ideas, (2) Governance, (3) Infrastructure, (4) Planning and Policy development, (5) Financing, (6) Human Resources, (7) Physical environment, and (8) Data, Research and Evaluation. All elements are interconnected and fit together to create a strong system; individually, each component has a limited impact.

Figure 2: Elements of a high quality early learning and child care system



(Source: Martha Friendly and Jane Beach, (2005). Elements of a high quality early learning and child care system. Childcare Resource and Research Unit.)

Quality Programs

At the program level, positive relationships between families and providers, amongst colleagues and between children and staff are strongly indicative of quality care. Additionally, when staff have higher levels of education and training, feel appreciated, and are well-supported, the quality of care increases. Planned programming and a strong curriculum that is tailored to meet the diverse needs of children further enhances quality. There is also ample evidence that a well-designed indoor/outdoor space is critical to supporting the development of children under five.

In order to facilitate improved quality special attention should be paid to the following human resource elements:

- Staff should have ECE (Early Childhood Education) training.
- At least some staff should have training in working with children with special needs and in working with families from different cultures and/or where English is an additional language.
- Wages should be decent and commensurate with the level of training.
- There should be written policies and formal procedures which give staff a feeling of worth and certainty, such as: job descriptions, contracts, salary schedule, performance reviews, and a staff manual.
- Staff should have access to opportunities for continued learning and professional development.

While not the responsibility of local governments, addressing challenges within the sector around recruitment and retention of ECE staff is critical to increasing the availability of high-quality care.

“I would love my child to be in a quality, licensed child care situation, whether it be in home or in a facility, both for the care he would receive and the ability to use the subsidy that we are eligible for.

– Parent & Caregiver Survey respondent

Auspice

Child care auspice (i.e., who operates the services) is critically important to the quality of child care programs. In BC (and Canada), four types of child care auspices exist:

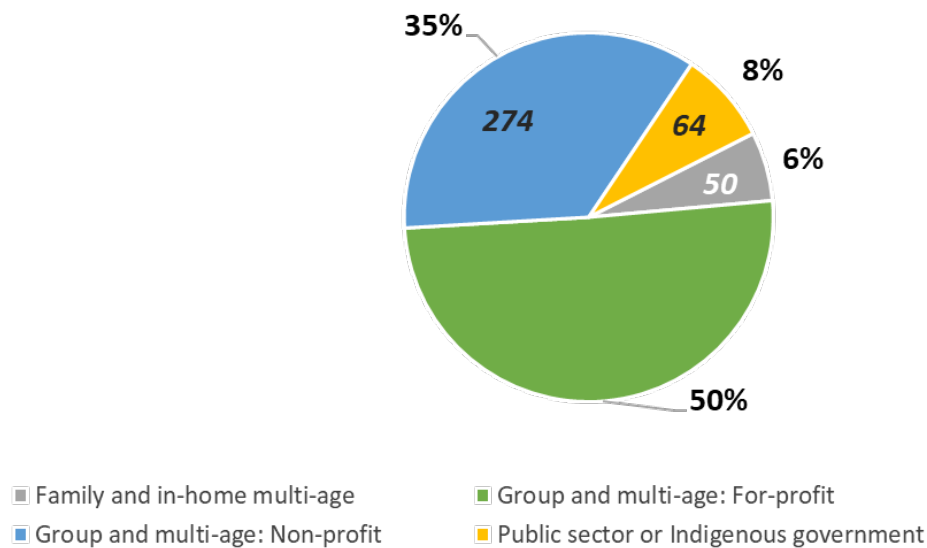
1. Non-profit child care services
2. For-profit child care services
3. Publicly operated child care services
4. Indigenous government operated child care services

We value and recognize that many for-profit child care centres in the region provide high-quality and reliable care to families and are an important part of our community. Broader research on auspice has consistently demonstrated that, on average, not-for-profit and publicly operated centres perform better on global evaluation scales when compared to for-profit centres³. In British Columbia, studies find that not-for-profit centres are more likely than for-profit centres to continue long-term operation⁴. Studies also show that not-for-profits are generally more likely to provide teaching support, higher salaries, staff policies, frequent job performance appraisals, and established grievance procedures, compared to for-profit centres. These factors can contribute to higher workplace morale and lower staff turnover, which are critical to ensuring high quality of care. The Province has also prioritized funding for public and not-for-profit child care.

Across British Columbia about 50% of the child care facilities are operated on a not-for-profit or public basis. The rate across the participating communities in the South Okanagan Similkameen was slightly lower, where 43% of child care spaces are operated by not-for-profits, public entities, or Indigenous governments.

Figure 3: Child care spaces by license type and auspice, all participating communities

Child care spaces by license type and auspice



While Provincial governments have the direct mandate and authority to build, monitor and assess a quality child care system, by engaging with public and community partners, local governments can create policy and make commitments that contribute to quality, including supporting operators to have the capacity for growth.

³ Childcare Resource and Research Unit (2011). Briefing Note: What research says about quality in for-profit, non-profit and public child care.

⁴ Kershaw, P., Forer, B. & Goelman, H. (2004). Hidden fragility: Closure among child care services in BC. Vancouver: Human Early Learning Partnership, University of British Columbia.

The following actions will assist in promoting and influencing the quality of child care. For the purposes of this Action Plan, short term is defined as between 2021 and 2023, medium term is 2024 to 2026, and long term is 2027 to 2031.

Table 7: Recommendations to promote and influence quality

Recommendations to Promote and Influence Quality			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
25	In considering the development of local government-owned child care spaces ensure that: a) Partners are not-for-profit and/or public child care providers b) Local government policy expectations are met (e.g., affordable child care fees) c) Local/regional governments consider the efficacy of developing facility design guidelines that are based on what the research states is best practice for child care (e.g., square footage for indoor and outdoor space that exceed the minimum Provincial Licensing Requirements)	Short	Not-for-profit providers, School District 53, 57 and 68, Interior Health
26	Support the province in its <i>“Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy”</i> initiative and its commitment to Inclusion through joint advocacy.	Short	School District 53, 57 and 68, Child Care Providers, Community Agencies, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
27	Engage in ongoing dialogue with First Nations and Métis, focusing on meeting the needs of Indigenous families/children and supporting high quality, culturally rooted and safe programming.	Ongoing	First Nations Bands, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association
28	Explore ways of increasing local ECE training and practicum opportunities, including engaging with: a) The Lower Similkameen Indian Band to see if their current ECE training pilot could be extended b) Post-secondary institutions to see if they could offer more local and/or remote ECE training options (i.e. Northern Lights College pilot)	Short/Medium	Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Northern Lights College, other post-secondary institutions

Recommendations to Promote and Influence Quality			
29	Work with the Child Care Action Group and the Supported Child Care Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development Programs to ensure the needs of children who require additional support are being met, pursuing such measures as: a) Providing information sessions for parents and child care providers about the services and supports that are available b) Coordinating networking and/or professional development opportunities for child care providers	Short/Medium	Child Care Action Group, suggested in recommendation # 4, Supported Child Development Programs, Child Care Providers
30	Collaborate on approaches for enhancing the attractiveness and sustainability of employment in the child care field by: a) Working with the School Districts to explore a dual credit ECE Program for local high school students to encourage local employment in child care b) Working with local child care providers to offer ECE practicums	Medium	School Districts 53, 58, 67, child care providers, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
31	Consider the need for Early Childhood Educators and child care in a formal Workforce Development or Business and Economic Development Strategies	Medium – ongoing	Local business planners, researchers
32	Work with the Child Care Action Group and the School Districts to offer ongoing training on BC's Early Learning Framework for local child care providers	Short - ongoing	Child Care Action Group suggested in recommendation # 4, School District 53, 57 and 68, Child Care Resource and Referral Program, Child Care Providers

Priority 4: Strengthen Collaborations and Partnerships

The child care system involves many parties playing various roles, which requires intentional relationships and collaboration within and across jurisdictions. The upcoming move of child care to the Ministry of Education will make collaboration and partnerships with School Districts even more critical to meeting the child care needs of families across the region. Strengthening existing relationships with First Nations and Métis peoples will also be essential to ensuring Indigenous children have access to culturally safe care and that all children benefit from incorporation of Indigenous perspectives and history in child care planning and curriculum. Other important partners include post-secondary institutions, Interior Health, community agencies, child care providers, senior levels of government, and community members. For this Action Plan, short term is between 2021 and 2023, medium term is 2024 to 2026, and long term is 2027 to 2031.

Table 8: Recommendations to develop collaboration and partnerships

Recommendations to Develop Collaboration and Partnerships			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
	Recommendations 1, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 16, 22 – 24, 26 – 30, 32 outlined earlier also involve strong collaboration and partnerships.	n/a	n/a
33	Build collaborative and learning relationships with First Nations and Métis, to support Indigenous history, culture, and perspectives into child care.	Ongoing	First Nations and Métis
34	Consider the development of a public education/communication campaign that includes messaging on the needs for child care, the importance of child care to the community, and the actions that are underway to improve the child care situation in the Region	Short /Medium	Child Care Action Group (the group proposed in recommendation # 4)
35	Advocate to senior governments to support the child care sector and families by: a) Ensuring the needs of the South Okanagan-Similkameen children are a priority for new spaces in provincial planning and funding b) Developing strategies to facilitate the recruitment, remuneration and retention of ECEs, including the recommendation in # 25 above	Short/Medium	Community Agencies, School District 53, 57 and 68

	c) Increasing resources to support children with additional needs d) Lowering fees for families e) Providing funding to support flexible, non-traditional hours of care f) Addressing other priority child care issues that may arise in the future.		
36	Pursue partnership opportunities with employers (e.g., in the tourism sector) to provide spaces for child care facilities that serve their employees' families and community. These could be joint projects with the involvement of several employers and not-for-profit child care providers).	Short/Medium/Long	Local employers, Chamber of Commerce
37	Share information and collaborate with the City of Penticton and the Town of Osoyoos on regional actions and ongoing planning.	Short/Medium/Long	City of Penticton and the Town of Osoyoos

Child Care Space Targets

One of the requirements specified by the funder of this Action Plan was that ten-year child care space targets be identified for each of the local government partners.

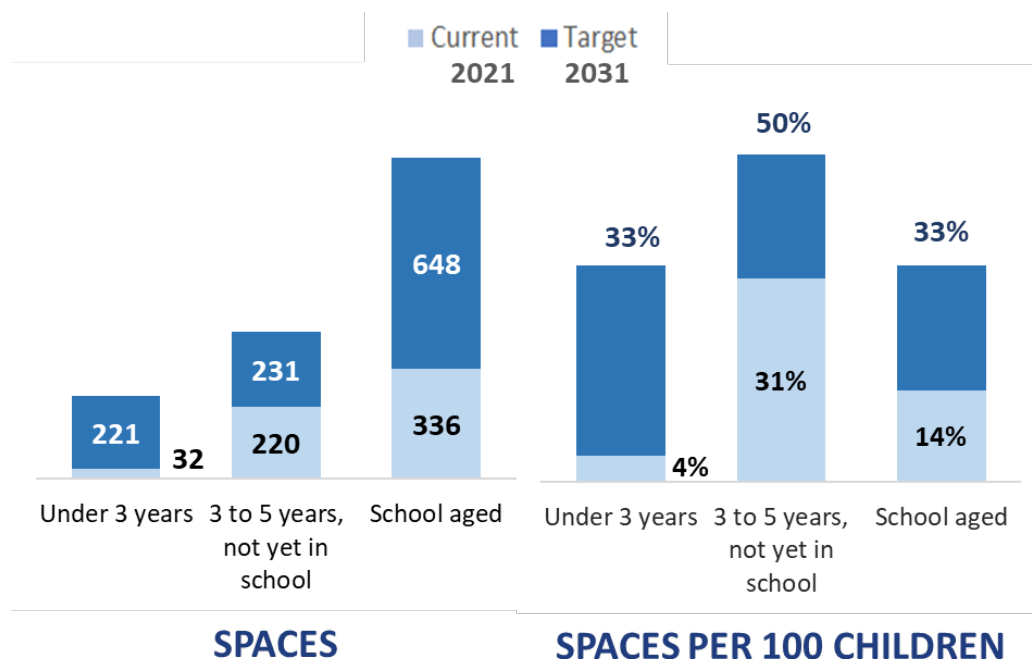
While setting targets for new child care spaces will clearly assist with planning and prioritization to meet community needs, it is acknowledged that the recommended targets are not for local governments to reach alone. Local governments require support from senior levels of government, community partners, and others to address the gaps in service. Continued capital funding is needed to support space creation and other Provincial and Federal policies are required to support the operation and sustainability of child care services.

Recommended Child Care Space Targets

The recommended targets for the South Okanagan Similkameen region (excluding Penticton and Osoyoos) are 33 infant-toddler spaces for every 100 children under 3, 50 full-day preschooler spaces for every 100 children 3 to 5 not yet in school, and 33 school age spaces for every 100 school age children kindergarten to age twelve.

As shown below, this would require the creation of **1,100** new child care spaces across the region by 2031.

Figure 4: Child care space targets, all participating communities



Due to an overall lack of child care services, families often need to travel outside their community to access child care. This means child care services in one jurisdiction could be used by families that live in the surrounding communities. However, for the purposes of this Action Plan, we have calculated current child care access rates and space targets separately for each municipality and for the combined electoral areas, in line with where municipalities and the Regional District have direct jurisdiction.

Process for Creating Targets

Currently, there are no Federal or Provincial standards or recommendations for the number of child care spaces per capita. In the absence of any formal policy or agreed upon standards, the space targets for the South Okanagan-Similkameen were informed by research on standards from other jurisdictions, local demographic and labour force data, and in consultation with municipal representatives, key partners in the child care sector, and community members.

Examples from other jurisdictions with publicly funded child care include the European Union, where the target is 33 spaces per 100 children under the age of 3 and 90 spaces per 100 children from 3 years to school age. In Quebec, the only publicly funded child care system in Canada, there are currently 57 spaces available per 100 children from birth to age 12.

In BC, several other local and regional governments have recently completed ten-year child care space targets. Examples of some of these space targets are presented in the table below.

Table 9: Ten-year child care space targets for other jurisdictions in BC

Ten-Year Targets for Number of Child Care Spaces per 100 Children by Age Group			
	Infant-Toddler	Preschooler	School Ager
City of Penticton	33	75	50
Mid-Island Region (Regional District of Nanaimo, City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach)	50	75	50
City of North Vancouver	33	50	33
District of North Vancouver	33	50	33

The recommended space targets take into account projected population growth and local employment rates for families, which both drive the need for child care. We attempt to strike a balance between a realistic, yet doable ten-year plan that will also meaningfully increase access for families across the region, prioritizing the areas and age groups experiencing the greatest unmet need.

The recommended access targets are consistent across the region. Priority is placed on significantly increasing spaces for the two age groups with the largest gaps in access: children under 3 and school age children. The targets also recognize the ongoing need for affordable services for preschool aged children.⁵

In addition, these targets are based on the following assumptions:

- The focus is on full-time, group, centre-based child care programs only (see Appendix B for a glossary of child care types in BC). This is because local governments and School Districts have a greater ability to facilitate development of group child care than family child care. Furthermore, family child care can have high rates of turnover which creates uncertainty when factored into long-term planning.
- Space targets for 2031 are based on projected child population for 2031, using Census 2016 data and population projections from BC Stats (P.E.O.P.L.E. 2020). Because the BC Stats' projections are only available for Regional Districts and Local Health Areas (LHA), we use the projections to assume the same relative population change for each age group for the following areas: District of Summerland and Summerland LHA; Town of Oliver and South Okanagan LHA; Town of Princeton and Princeton LHA; Village of Keremeos and Keremeos LHA; Unincorporated Electoral Areas and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.
- Licensing regulations (i.e., the maximum group sizes) were used to estimate that each infant/toddler program has 12 spaces, each preschooler age program has 25 spaces, and each school age program has 24 spaces. This is used to show the number of new programs needed to reach each target.
- The targets are organized into short, medium, and long-term time horizons, where short-term is 2021 – 2023, medium term is 2024 – 2026, and long term is 2027 – 2031.

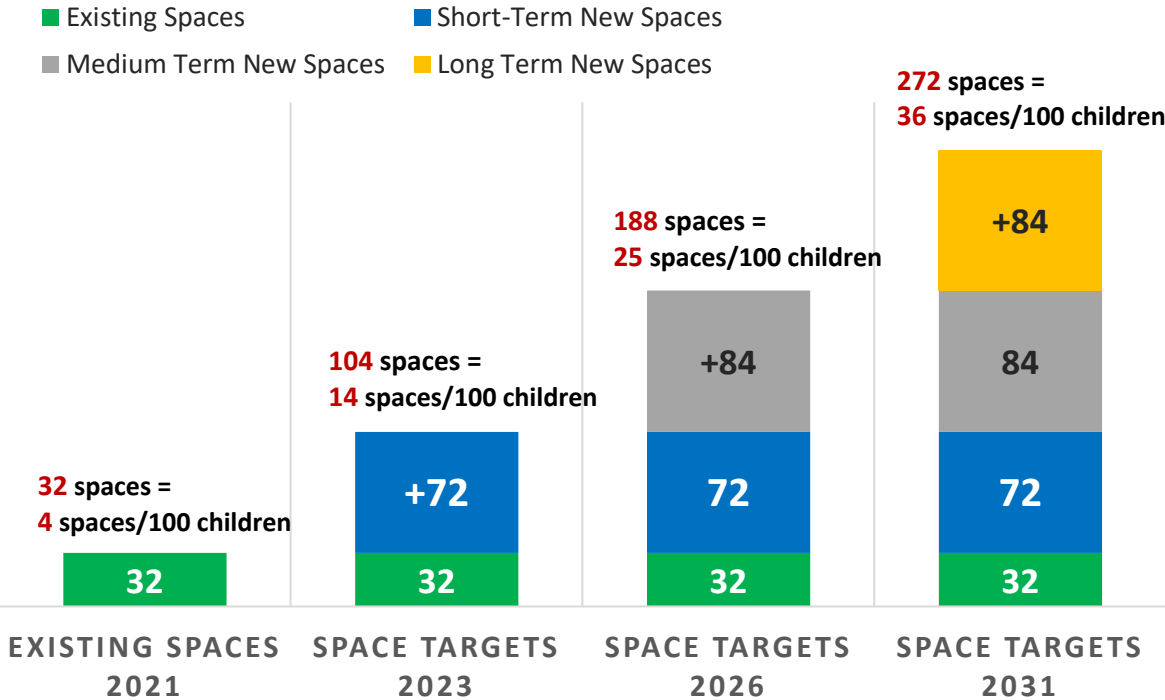
⁵ The proposed targets for the preschooler age group are higher than for the other age groups (i.e., 50 spaces per 100 children vs. 33 spaces per 100 children) for three main reasons: 1) the current access rate is already much higher therefore, fewer additional spaces will be required to meet the target; 2) the economic viability of operating infant - toddler programs relies on companion preschooler spaces; and 3) a continuum of services in one location provides the best stability for children and families.

Infant-Toddler (Under 3 Years) Recommended Targets

The participating communities for this project have a total of 32 spaces for infant-toddler or 4 spaces for every 100 children under 3. By facilitating the creation of six 12-space programs by 2023 (72 spaces), seven programs between 2024 and 2026 (84 spaces), and an additional seven programs between 2027 and 2031 (84 spaces), the region would have 272 infant-toddler spaces or child care spaces available for 36% of all children under 3 years by 2031.

Figure 5: Infant-toddler space targets, all participating communities

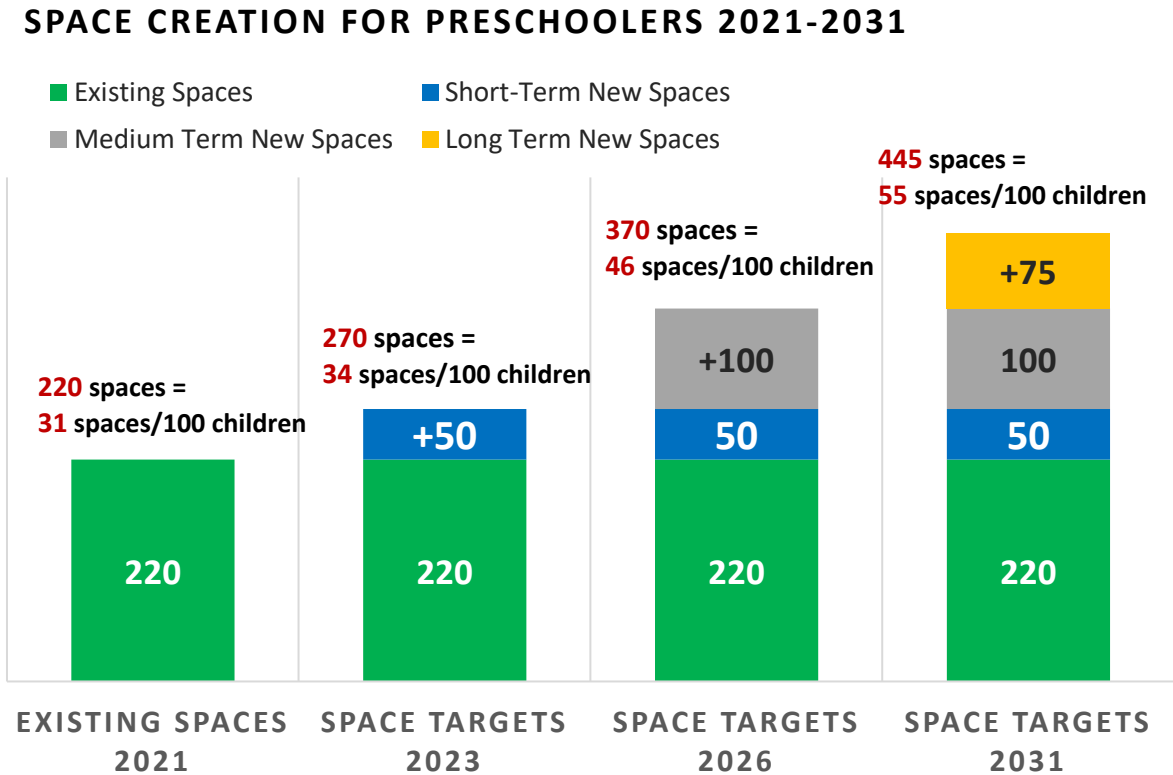
SPACE CREATION FOR INFANT-TODDLERS 2021-2031



Preschool Age (3 to 5 Years Not Yet in School) Recommended Targets

The participating communities currently have a total of 220 spaces for preschooler age children or 31 spaces for every 100 children in this age group. By facilitating the creation of two 25-space programs by 2023 (50 spaces), four programs between 2024 and 2026 (100 spaces), and three programs between 2027 and 2031 (75 spaces), the region would have 445 full-day preschooler age child care spaces or child care spaces available for 55% of all children aged 3 to 5 but not yet in school by 2026.

Figure 6: Preschooler space targets, all participating communities

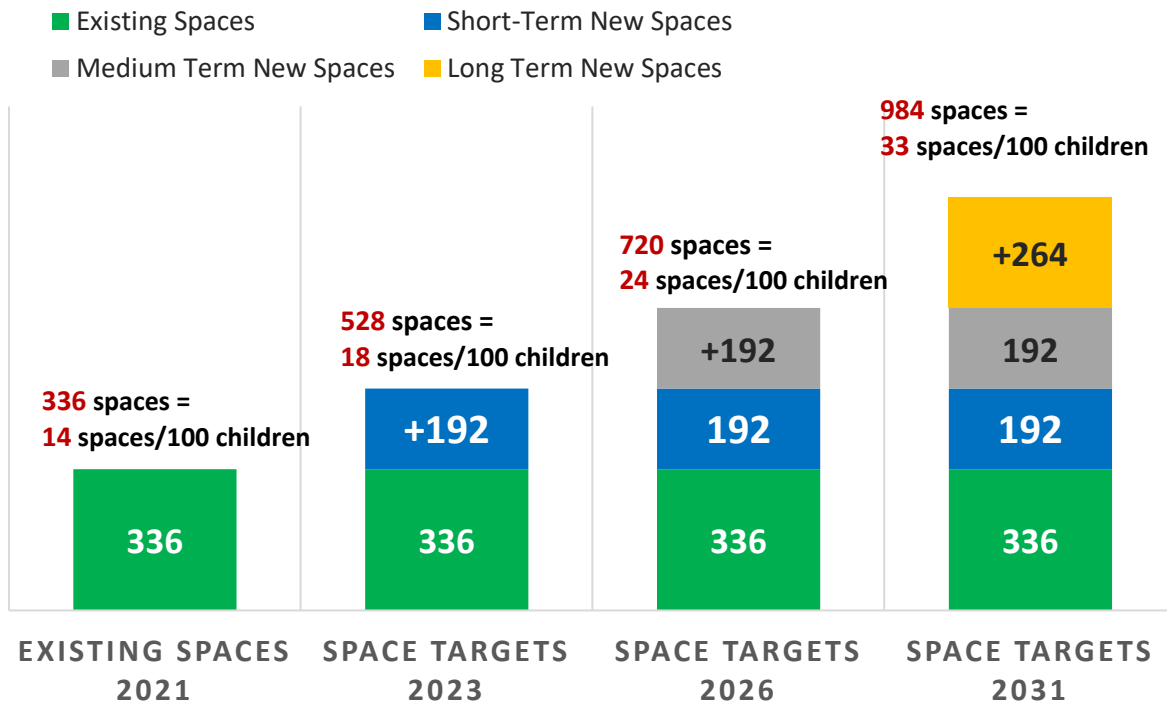


School Aged (Kindergarten to 12 Years) Recommended Targets

The participating communities for this project currently have 336 spaces school ages or about 14 spaces for every 100 school aged children. By helping facilitate the creation of eight 24-space programs by 2023 (192 spaces), eight programs between 2024 and 2026 (192 spaces), and 11 programs between 2027 and 2031 (264 spaces), the region would have 984 school age spaces or child care spaces available for 33% of all school aged children by 2031.

Figure 7: School ager space targets, all participating communities

SPACE CREATION FOR SCHOOL AGERS 2021-2031



Space Targets by Geographic Area

The maps below show the number of spaces available currently and the number of new spaces needed to meet the space targets in each space targets. Because the same targets have been set for all jurisdictions, the Action Plan allows the partners to prioritize creation of new child care spaces. More detailed information about the space targets by jurisdiction are presented in the sections below.

Figure 8: Map of current spaces and new spaces needed to reach target, Infant-Toddlers

South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Spaces, Infant-Toddlers (under 3 years)
Target: 33 Spaces per 100 Children by 2031

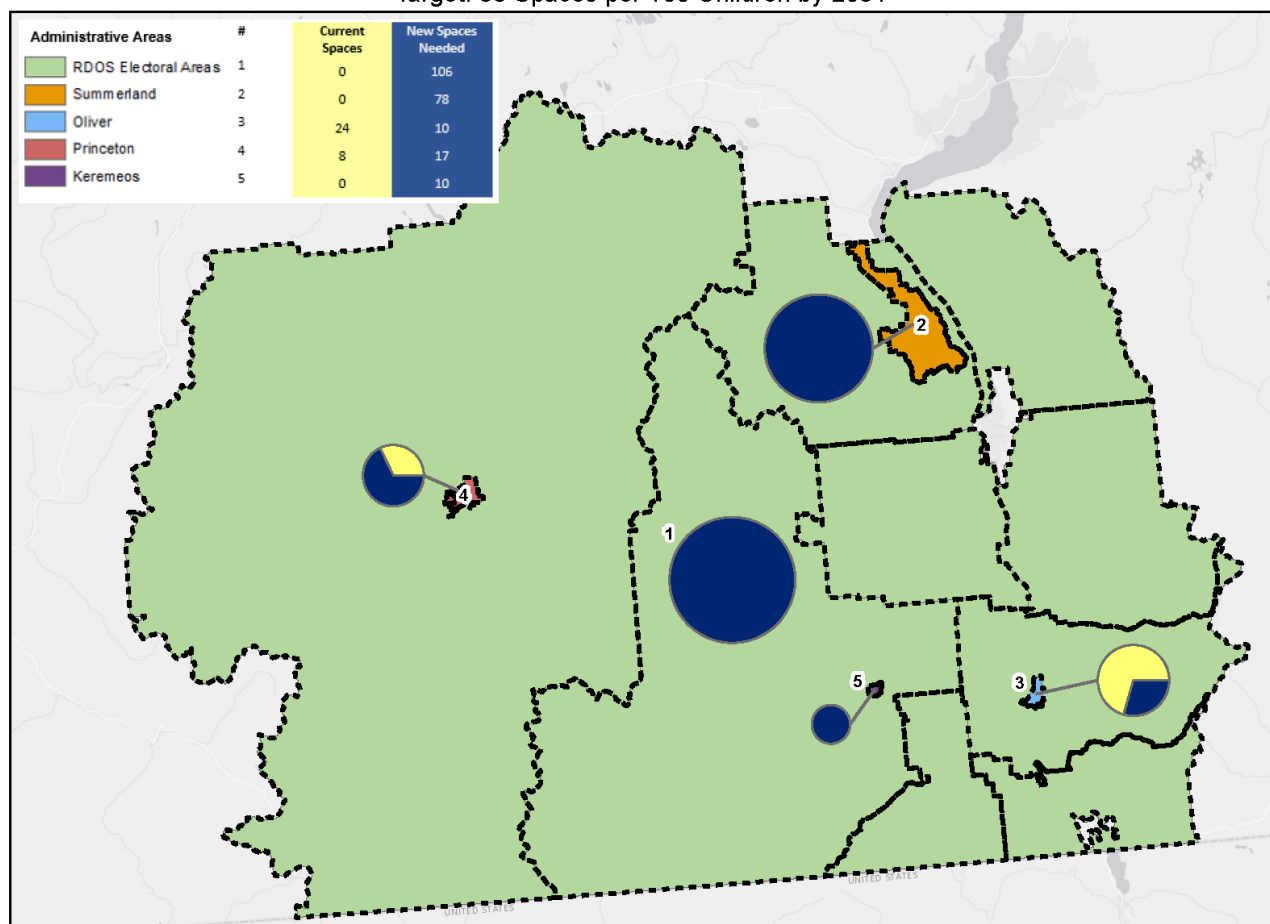


Figure 9: Map of current spaces and new spaces needed to reach target, Preschoolers

South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Spaces, Preschoolers (3 years to school age)
Target: 50 Spaces per 100 Children by 2031

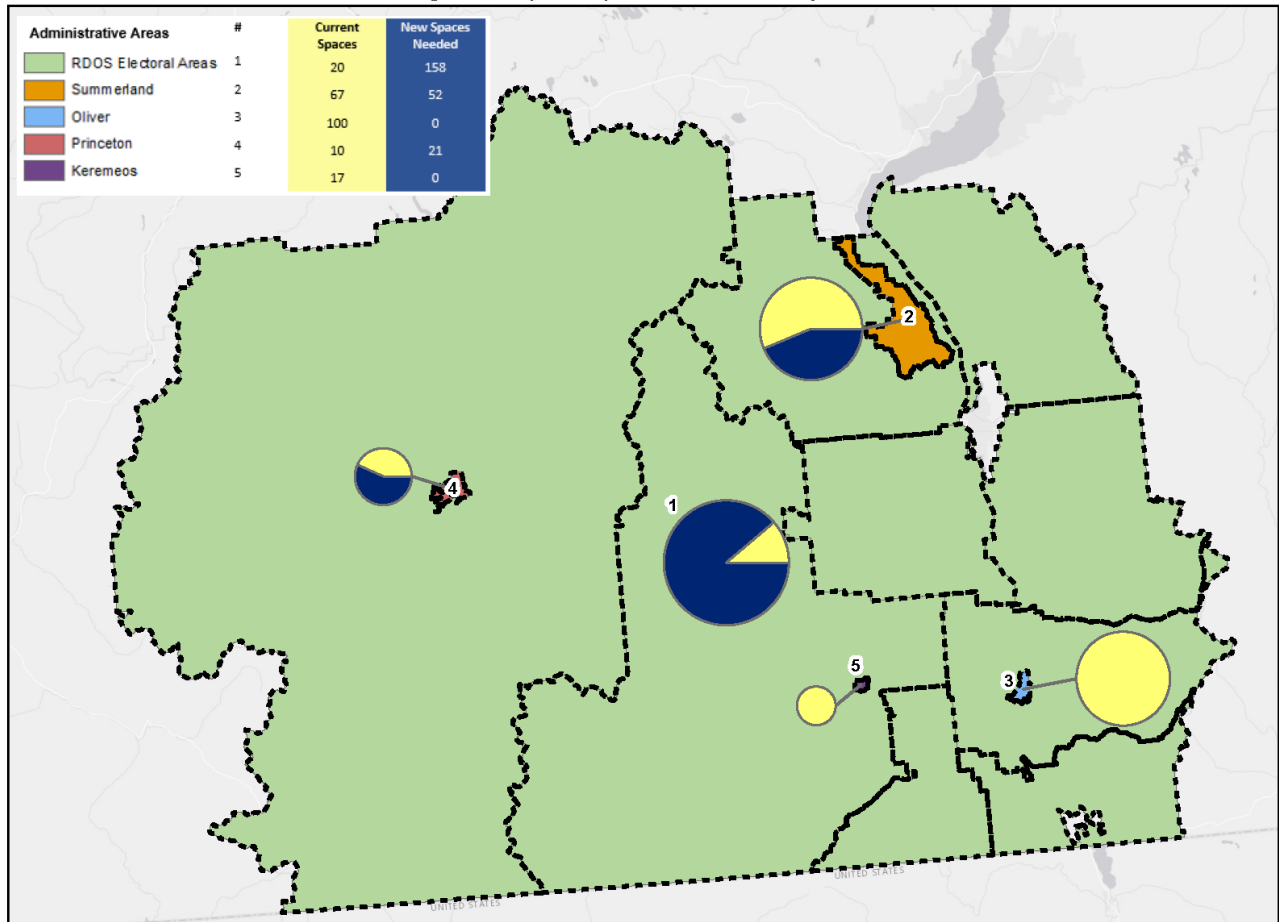
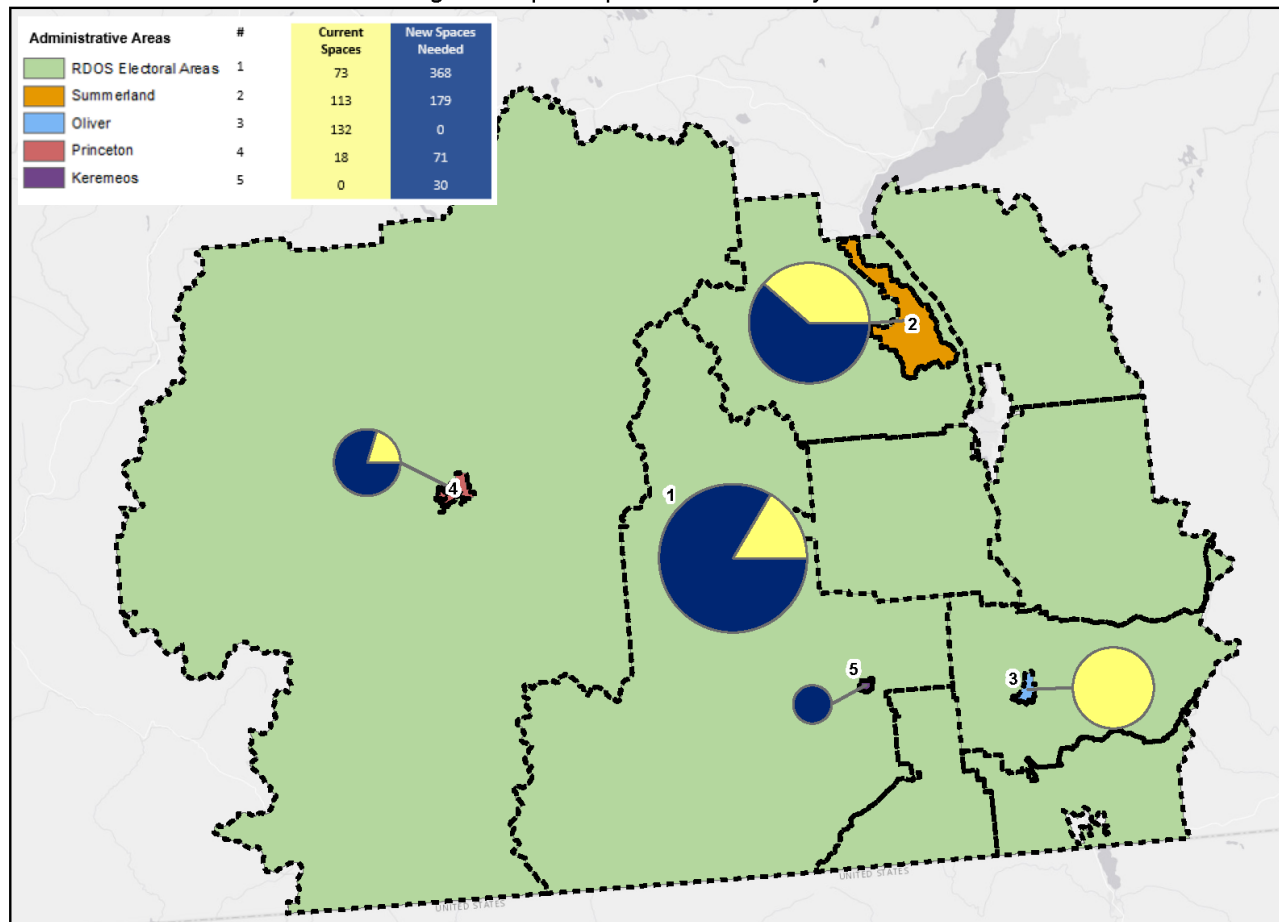


Figure 10: Map of current spaces and new spaces needed to reach target, School Aged

South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Spaces, School Aged (Kindergarten to 12 years)
 Target: 33 Spaces per 100 Children by 2031



Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting

This Action Plan, developed in the context of increased commitments from senior levels of government for child care, represents an important opportunity to enhance the social and economic well-being of residents of the South Okanagan-Similkameen and to support the healthy development of children. As the Action Plan is implemented, it will be important for the project partners to monitor and report publicly on progress.

We recommend that the Regional District and partnering municipalities work with the proposed Child Care Action Group (see recommendation 4) to implement and monitor progress towards actions in this Action Plan including the child care space creation targets. It will also be critical for the project partners to work together to identify leads for each of regional actions and to ensure a consistent approach for actions to be undertaken by each jurisdiction.

We also recommend that an annual progress report be prepared by the project partners. This report could document successes, challenges, and lessons learned from implementing the Action Plan. It could also contain recommendations for adjustments to reflect evolving Provincial or Federal policy changes, such as the transition of child care to the Ministry of Education. Finally, we suggest that the annual report should be shared widely with partners including the child care provider community, other levels of government and the public.

Taking these actions will ensure the Action Plan stays relevant and useful over the ten-year period and can be used to effectively guide future decisions on local government investment of time and resources on child care.

District of Summerland

The following section highlights key information relevant to child care planning for the District of Summerland. Please refer to the full regional report above for complete details of the project findings; recommendations applicable to all jurisdictions; the policy context for child care; and the importance of the Action Plan's strategic priority areas of accessibility, affordability, quality, and partnerships.

In addition to the overall recommendations included in the regional report, we recommend that the District of Summerland commit to actively working towards incorporating child care in the new Summerland Community Recreation and Health Centre.

About Children and Families in Summerland

When planning for child care, it is important to consider not only the number of spaces to be created, but the unique needs of families and children in each community to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone. Pertinent data about children and families in Summerland, including demographic information and income patterns, are presented below.

Demographic Highlights

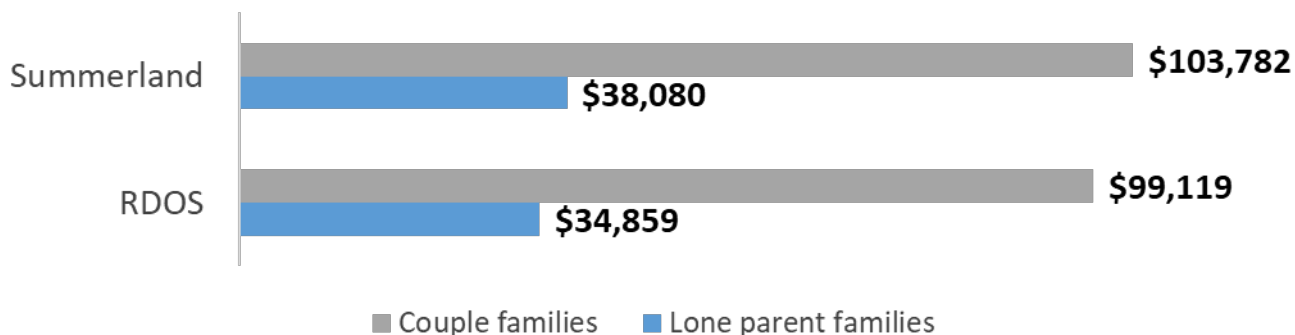
Some families, including those who are Indigenous, recent immigrants, or led by a lone parent, may face additional barriers to accessing child care.

- 6% of Summerland residents are Indigenous (605 individuals).
- 13% of residents are immigrants (1,400 individuals).
- 16% of all children 0 to 14 live in lone parent families (230 children).

Family Income

Figure 11: Median household income, families with children under 18, District of Summerland and RDOS

Median household income (before-tax), families with children under 18, 2015



- Nearly one in five children under the age of 18 live in low-income families.

Child Vulnerability

- According to UBC's Early Development Indicator (EDI), 31% of kindergarten aged children in the Summerland area, compared with 34% of children in School District 67, are vulnerable on one or more scales of development and would benefit from additional support⁶.

Commute Times & Hours of Care

- 19% of employed residents of Summerland have commute times of over 30 minutes, which suggests need for longer hours of care to accommodate commutes.

Parent & Caregiver Survey Highlights

The Parent & Caregiver survey received responses from 36 Summerland residents, providing information about the child care arrangements of 44 children. These results should be interpreted with caution and may not be generalizable to all families in Summerland. However, the responses are suggestive of some of the child care challenges experienced by families in the District.

- 46% of parents with a child care arrangement other than a parent or relative reported that securing their arrangement was very difficult.
- Parents in Summerland were the most likely of all parents in the region to say they selected their current child care arrangement because it was the first one to offer a space (42%), rather than other considerations such as program activities or reputation.
- 58% of parents said they would change their current care arrangement if they could.
- Parents and caregivers were also the most likely in the region to report spending time on child care waiting lists.
 - 47% of survey respondents currently using parental or relative care were currently on a waitlist, compared to the regional rate of 25%.
 - For those using a form of care other than a parent or relative, 73% had been on a waitlist to secure that child care spot, compared with 54% across the region.
 - 74% of those who had been on a waitlist experienced waits of over six months and 53% were on waitlists for over one year.
- When parents were asked about their satisfaction with their current care arrangement, 58% were satisfied with hours of care, 58% were satisfied with location, and 31% were satisfied with cost.

⁶ A complete description of the EDI and detailed reports for each School District can be found at: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/data/>.

Current & Projected Child Population

According to the 2016 Census, the District of Summerland has about 1,200 children from birth to age 12. As shown in the Table below, the number of children is expected to increase significantly by 2031 (+15%), with projected population growth for all three age groups⁷.

Table 10: Current and projected child population, District of Summerland

Age Group		Number of Children 2016	Projected Number of Children 2031	Change 2016 – 2031 #	Change 2016 – 2031 %
Infant-Toddler	0 to 2 years	230	237	+7	+3%
Preschooler Age	3 to 4 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	205	239	+34	+17%
School Age	6 to 12 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	750	886	+136	+18%
Total	0 to 12 years	1,185	1,362	+177	+15%

Current Child Care Access

In total, the District of Summerland has 220 licensed child care spaces or 19 spaces for every 100 children from birth to age twelve.

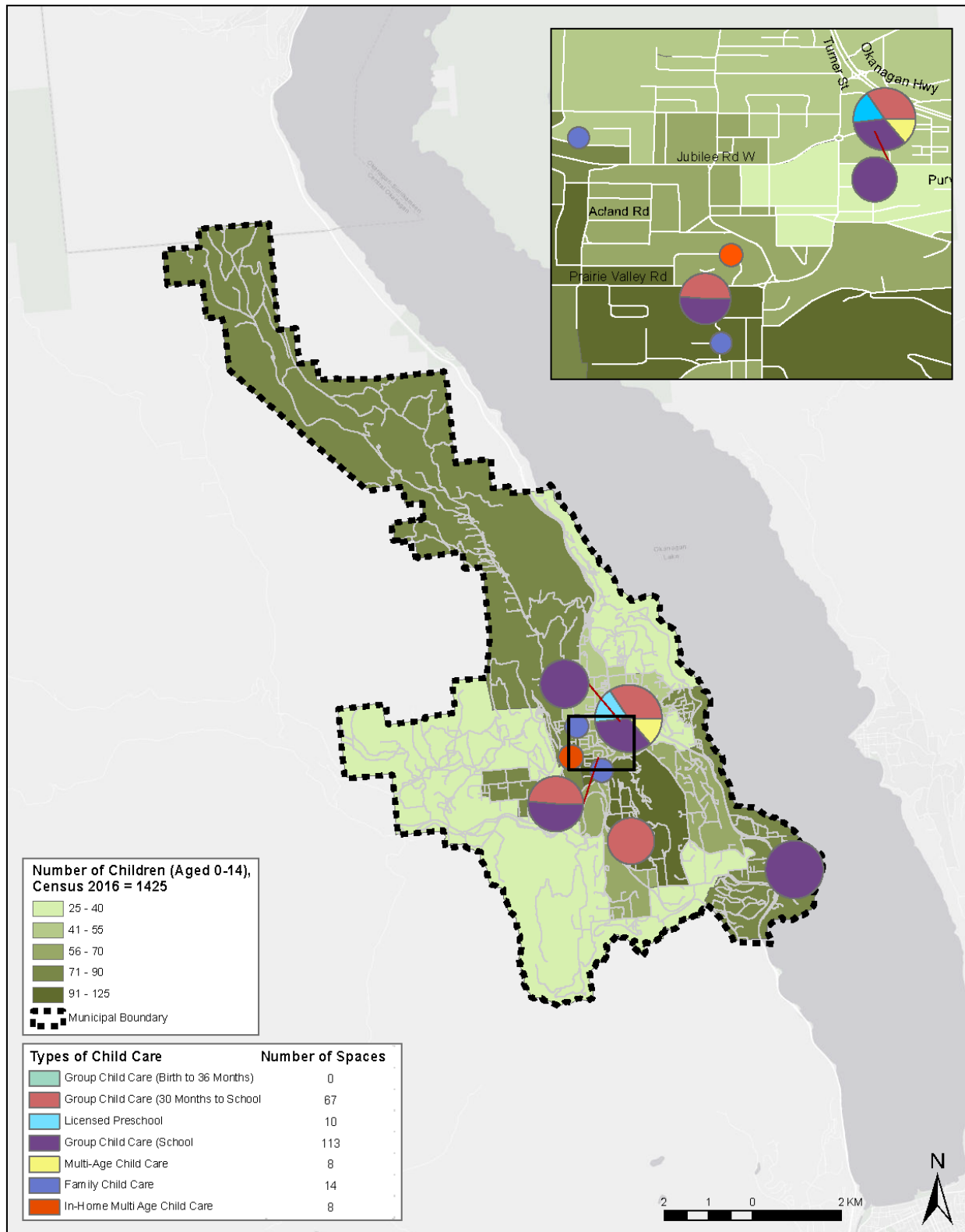
Due to an overall lack of child care services, families often need to travel outside their community to access child care. This means child care services in one jurisdiction, such as Summerland, could be used by families that live in the surrounding electoral areas. However, for the purposes of this Action Plan, we have calculated current child care access rates and space targets separately for each jurisdiction because that is where each municipality has direct jurisdiction.

As shown in the map below, child care access varies across the District. The north-western area of Summerland is home to a large number of children but currently has no licensed child care; this area may warrant priority consideration when creating new spaces to meet the space targets.

⁷ Projected child populations are based on BC Stat's P.E.O.P.L.E. 2020 population projections for the Summerland Local Health Area.

Figure 12: Map of child care facilities and spaces, District of Summerland

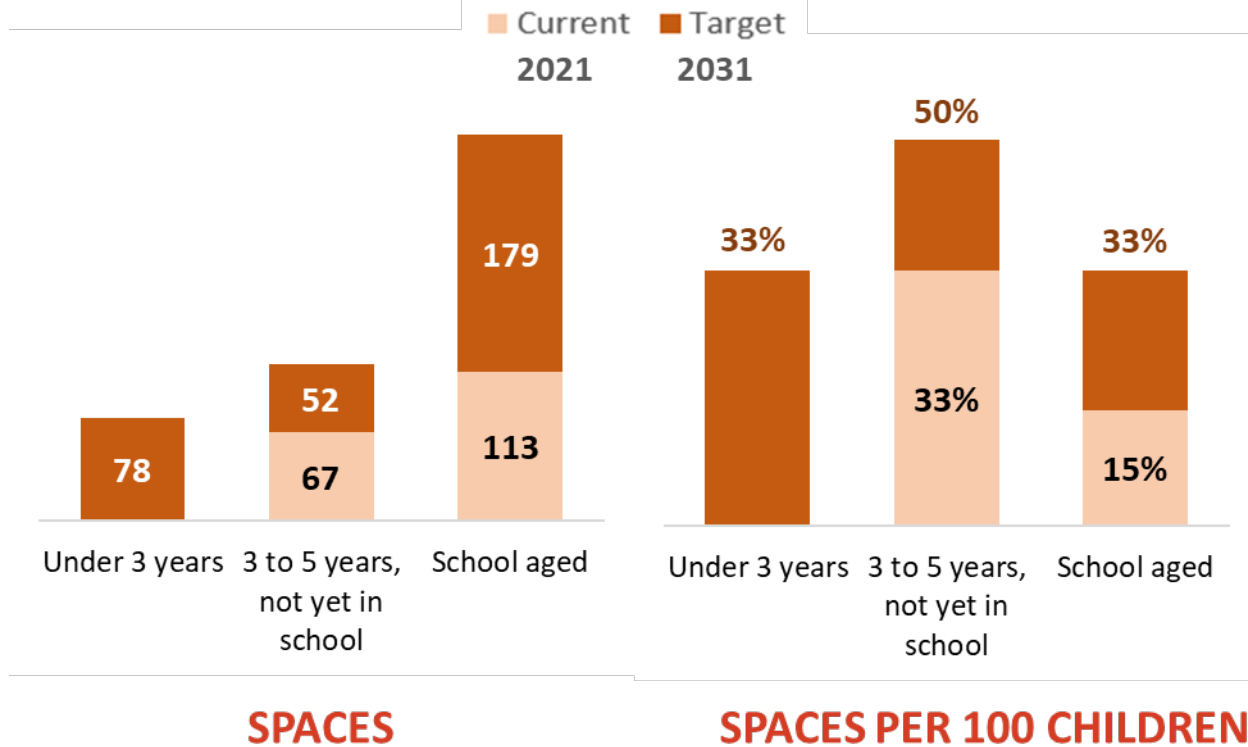
Summerland – Child Care Facilities & Spaces, 2020



Ten-Year Child Care Access Targets

The space targets presented below are based on projected child population for 2031 and are aligned with the Regional recommendations. To reach the recommended space targets, Summerland would need an additional 309 group spaces for children aged 0 to 12 by 2031.

Figure 13: Child care space targets, District of Summerland



Short, Medium and Long Term Recommended Targets

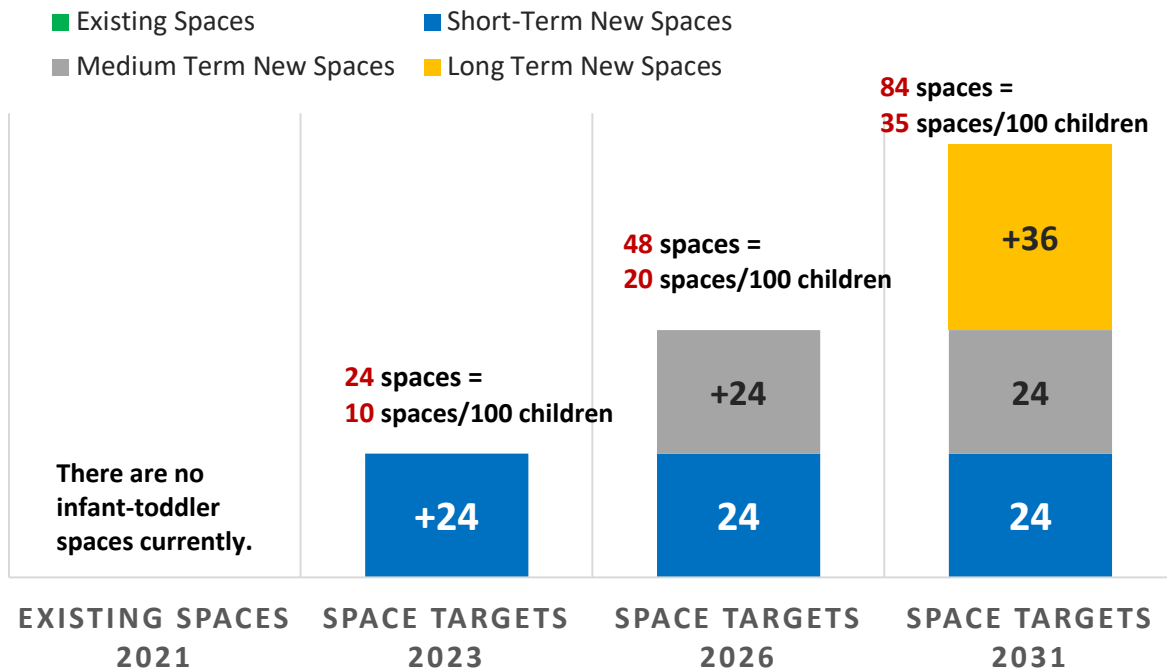
We have calculated the targeted number of spaces to be created for each age group for the short (2021 - 2023), medium (2024 - 2026), and long-term (2027 – 2031) (see chart below). To provide a “real world” basis for the targets, the calculations reflect the maximum group sizes for each program type as per licensing regulations (i.e., 12-space group birth to 36-month programs, 25-space group 30-month to school age programs, and 24-space school age programs). As a result, the total number of new spaces shown in the charts below may vary by a few spaces from the numbers of new spaces shown in the Figure 12 above.

Infant-Toddler (Under 3 Years) Space Targets

Summerland currently has no group infant-toddler spaces. By facilitating the creation of two 12-space programs by 2023 (24 spaces), two programs between 2024 and 2026 (24 spaces), and four programs between 2027 and 2031 (36 spaces), the District would have 84 infant-toddler spaces or child care spaces available for 35% of all children under 3 years by 2031.

Figure 14: Infant-toddler space targets, District of Summerland

SPACE CREATION FOR INFANT-TODDLERS 2021-2031

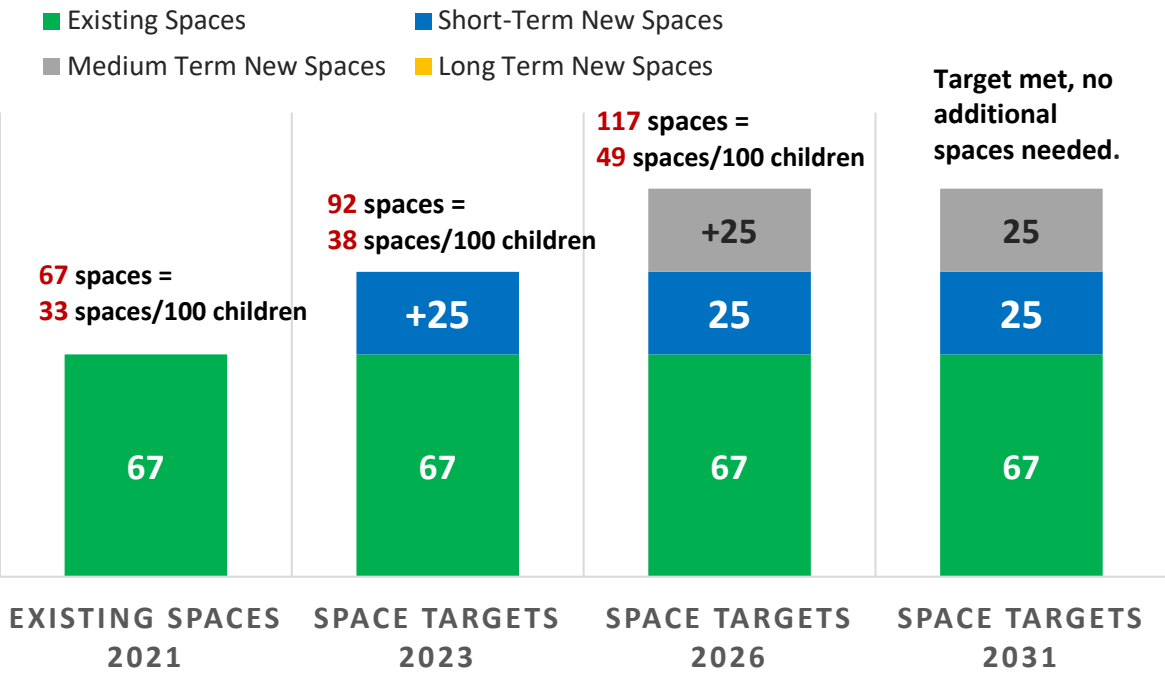


Preschooler Age (3 to 5 Not Yet in School) Space Targets

Summerland currently has 67 full-day group spaces for preschooler age children or about 33 spaces for every 100 children in this age group. By facilitating the creation of one 25-space program by 2023 and one program between 2024 and 2026, Summerland would have 117 full-day preschooler spaces or child care spaces available for 49% of all children aged 3 to 5 but not yet in school by 2026.

Figure 15: Preschooler space targets, District of Summerland

SPACE CREATION FOR PRESCHOOLERS 2021-2031

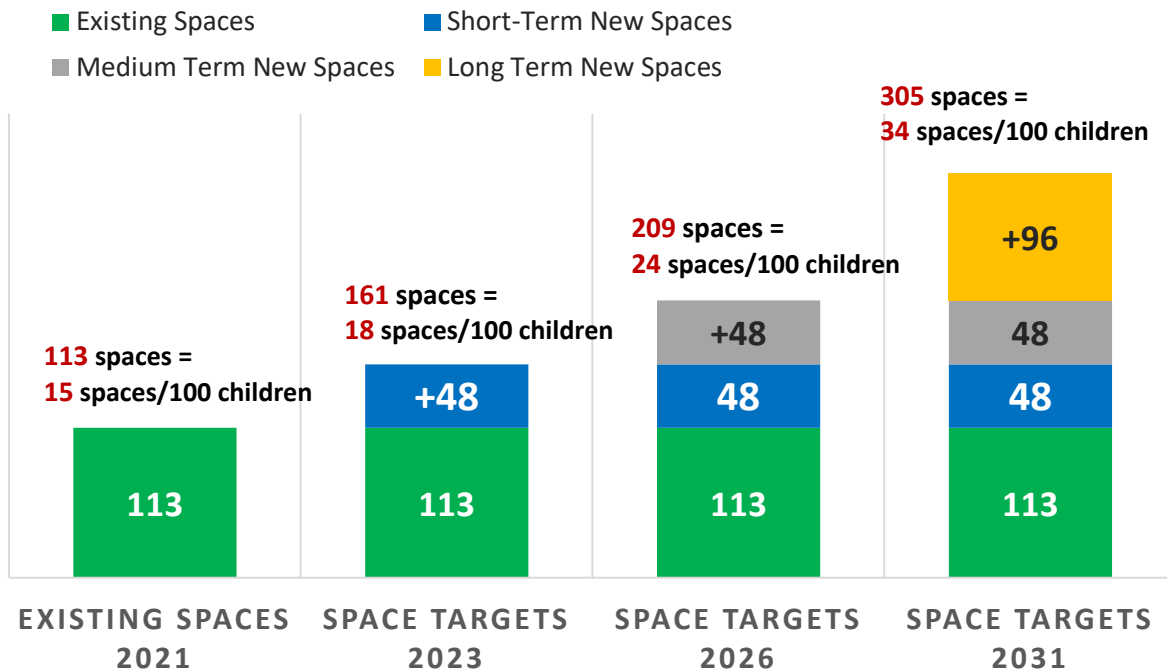


School Ager (Kindergarten to 12 Years) Space Targets

Summerland currently has 113 group school ages spaces or about 15 spaces for every 100 school aged children. By helping facilitate the creation of two 24-space programs by 2023 (48 spaces), two programs between 2024 and 2026 (48 spaces), and four programs between 2027 and 2031 (96 spaces), the District would have 305 school age spaces or child care spaces available for 34% of all school aged children by 2031.

Figure 16: School ager space targets, District of Summerland

SPACE CREATION FOR SCHOOL AGERS 2021-2031



Town of Princeton

The following section highlights key information relevant to child care planning for the Town of Princeton. Please refer to the full regional report above for complete details of the project findings; recommendations applicable to all jurisdictions; the policy context for child care; and the importance of the Action Plan's strategic priority areas of accessibility, affordability, quality, and partnerships.

In addition to the overall recommendations included in the regional report, we recommend that the Town of Princeton partner with School District 58 to explore whether underutilized District spaces, such as the Board Office or Riverside School, could be repurposed for child care.

About Children and Families in Princeton

When planning for child care, it is important to consider not only the number of spaces to be created, but the unique needs of families and children in each community to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone. Pertinent data about children and families in Princeton, including demographic information and income patterns, are presented below.

Demographic Highlights

Some families, including those who are Indigenous, recent immigrants, or led by a lone parent, may face additional barriers to accessing child care.

- 10% of Princeton residents are Indigenous (280 individuals).
- 7% of residents are immigrants (205 individuals).
- One-quarter (25%) of all children 0 to 14 live in lone parent families (90 children).

Family Work Patterns

- Princeton has a higher share of couple parent families with only one earner than the Regional District as a whole (26% versus 15%). This suggests more families may include a stay-at-home parent.

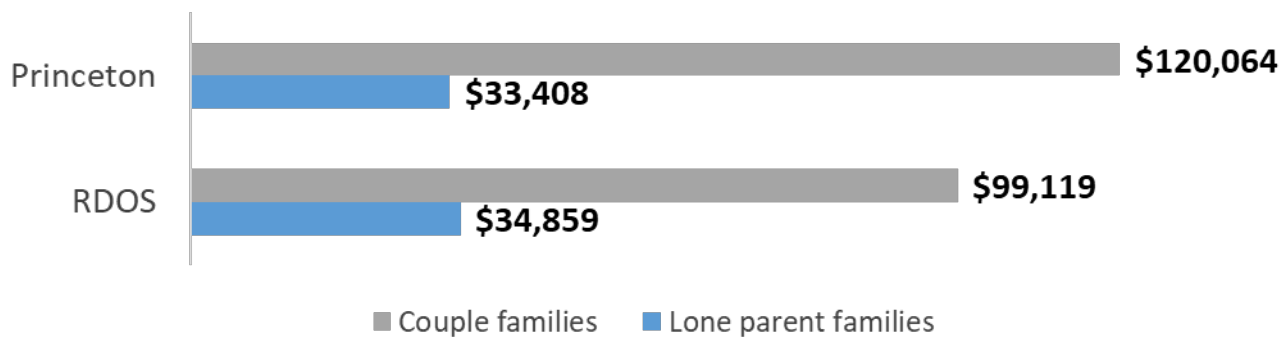
Family Income

- Compared to the other participating communities for this project, Princeton has the highest median income for couple parent families but the lowest median income for lone parent families⁸.

⁸ Because of the small population size of some communities and the need to protect confidentiality, median incomes for lone parent families are only available for Summerland, Oliver, Princeton, Electoral Areas D & I, Electoral Area E, and the Regional District.

Figure 17: Median household income, families with children under 18, Town of Princeton and RDOS

Median household income (before-tax), families with children under 18, 2015



- One in five children under 18 live in low-income families.

Child Vulnerability

- According to UBC's Early Development Indicator (EDI), 29% of kindergarten aged children in the School District 58 are vulnerable on one or more scales of development and would benefit from additional support⁹.

Parent & Caregiver Survey Highlights

The Parent & Caregiver Survey received responses from 31 residents of Princeton or Electoral H, with those 31 respondents providing information about the child care arrangements of 38 children. These results should be interpreted with caution and may not be generalizable to all families in Princeton. However, the responses are suggestive of the child care experiences of families in the Town.

- 41% of respondents, including those currently relying on a parent or relative to provide care, said they would change their current care arrangement if a preferred alternative became available at a price they could afford.
- Parents in Princeton were less likely than others in the region to report long wait times for child care spaces.
 - 33% of survey respondents from the area who were using a form of care other than a parent or relative had been on a waitlist to secure that spot, compared with 54% across the region.
 - Of those parents, only one respondent reported a wait time greater than six months, and there were no reported wait times of longer than one year.
- Parents and caregivers in Princeton were least likely in the region to report that finding child care was very difficult (11%). They were also the least likely to report choosing their current care arrangement because it was the first to offer a space (17%) and most likely to report choosing their child care arrangement based on reputation (75%).

⁹ A complete description of the EDI and detailed reports for each School District can be found at: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/data/>.

Current & Projected Child Population

According to the 2016 Census, the Town of Princeton has 325 children from birth to age 12. As shown in the Table below, the number of children is expected increase significantly by 2031 (+29%), with projected population growth for all three age groups¹⁰.

Table 11: Current and projected child population, Town of Princeton

Age Group		Number of Children 2016	Projected Number of Children 2031	Change 2016 – 2031 #	Change 2016 – 2031 %
Infant-Toddler	0 to 2 years	65	76	+11	+17%
Preschooler Age	3 to 4 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	65	73	+8	+12%
School Age	6 to 12 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	195	270	+75	+38%
Total	0 to 12 years	325	419	+94	+29%

Current Child Care Access

The Town of Princeton has 57 licensed child care spaces or 18 spaces for every 100 children.

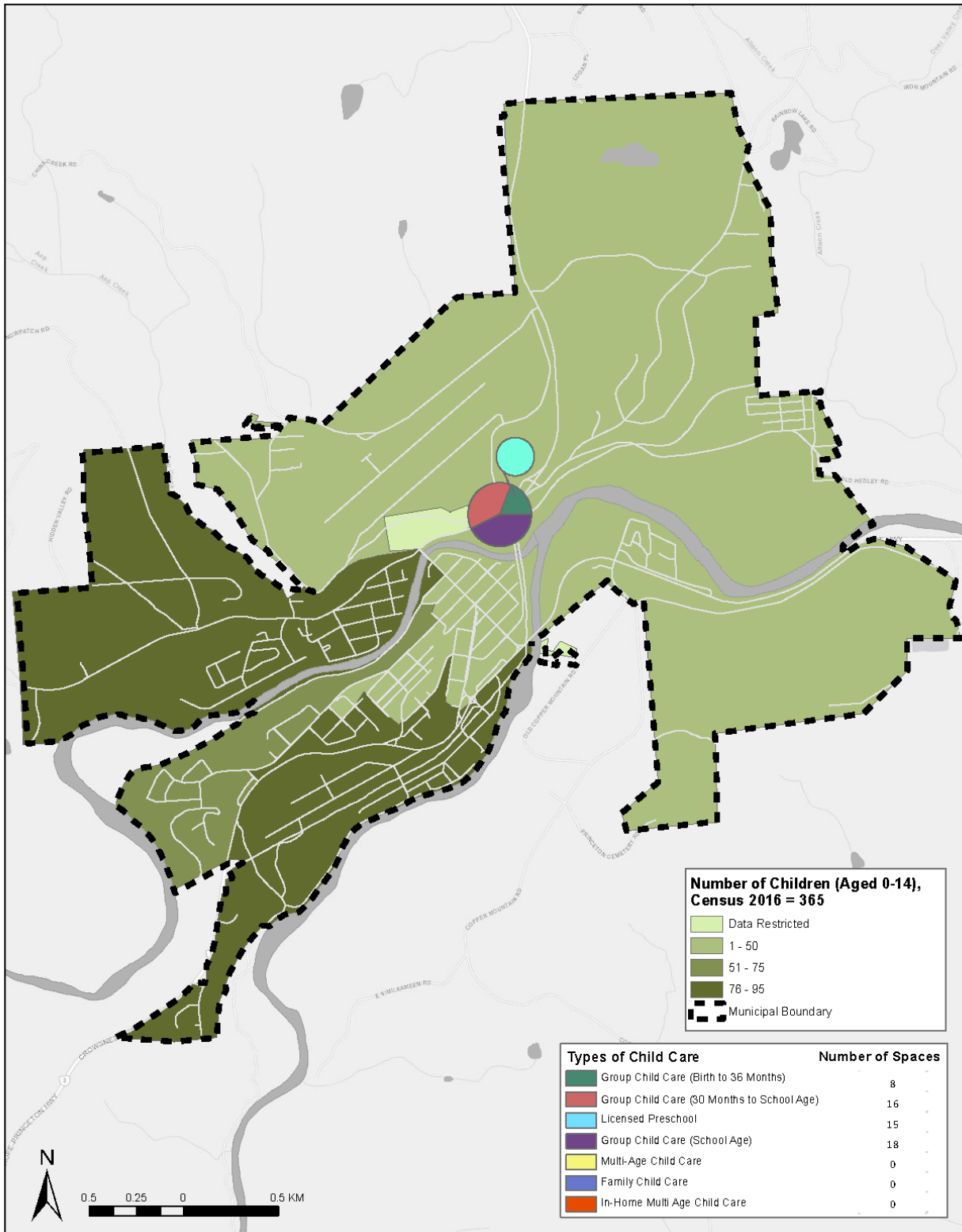
Due to an overall lack of child care services, families often need to travel outside their community to access child care. This means child care services in one jurisdiction, such as Princeton, could be used by families that live in the surrounding electoral areas. However, for the purposes of this Action Plan, we have calculated current child care access rates and space targets separately for each jurisdiction because that is where each municipality has direct jurisdiction.

The map below shows where current child care spaces are located, relative to child population. Areas of Town with large child populations but few child care spaces should be prioritized when considering locations of new spaces to reach space targets.

¹⁰ Projected child populations are based on BC Stat's P.E.O.P.L.E. 2020 population projections for the Princeton Local Health Area.

Figure 18: Map of child care facilities and spaces, Town of Princeton

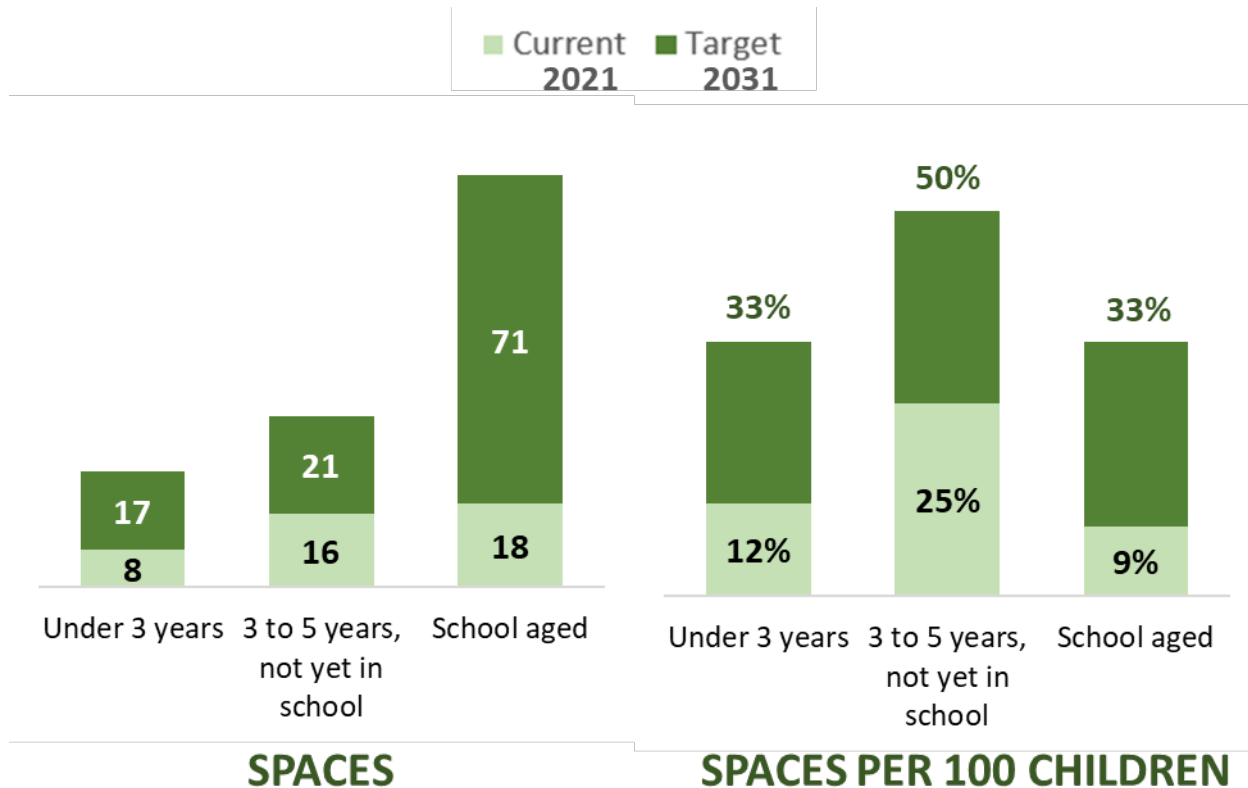
Princeton – Child Care Facilities & Spaces, 2020



Ten-Year Child Care Access Targets

The space targets presented below are based on projected child population for 2031. To reach the recommended space targets, Princeton would need an additional 109 group spaces for children aged 0 to 12 by 2031.

Figure 19: Child care space targets, Town of Princeton



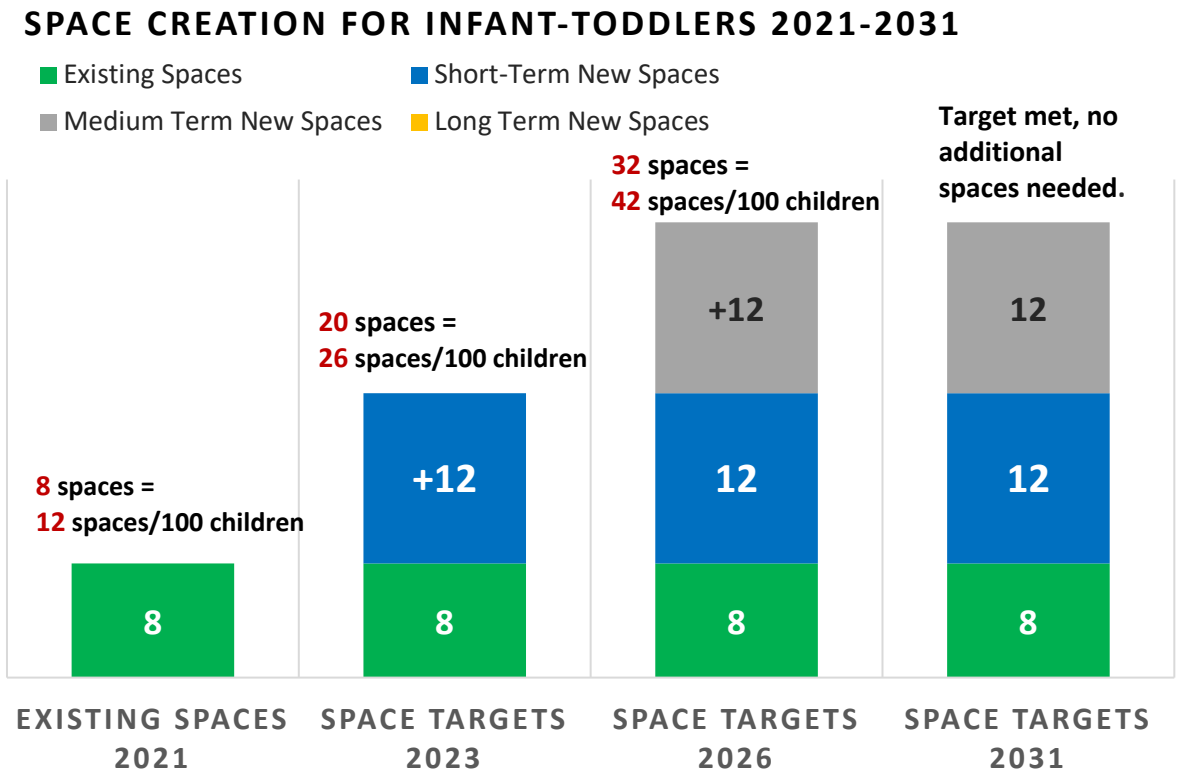
Short, Medium and Long Term Recommended Targets

We have calculated the targeted number of spaces to be created for each age group for the short (2021 - 2023), medium (2024 - 2026), and long-term (2027 – 2031) (see chart below). To provide a “real world” basis for the targets, the calculations reflect the maximum group sizes for each program type as per licensing regulations (i.e., 12-space group birth to 36-month programs, 25-space group 30-month to school age programs, and 24-space school age programs). As a result, the total number of new spaces shown in the charts below may vary by a few spaces from the numbers of new spaces shown in the Figure 18 above.

Infant-Toddler (Under 3 Years) Space Targets

Princeton currently has 8 group infant-toddler spaces. By facilitating the creation of one 12-space program by 2023 and one program between 2024 and 2026, Princeton would have 32 infant-toddler spaces or child care spaces available for 42% of all children under 3 years by 2026.

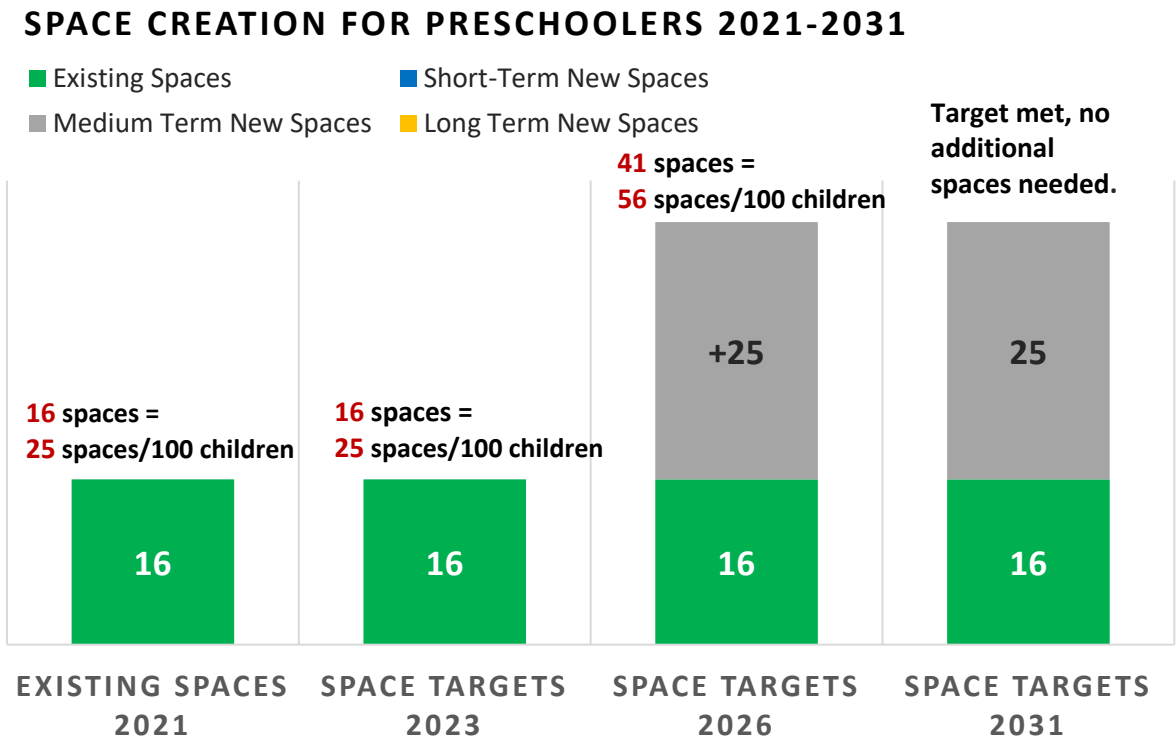
Figure 20: Infant-toddler space targets, Town of Princeton



Preschooler Age (3 to 5 Not Yet in School) Space Targets

Princeton currently has 16 full-day group spaces for preschooler age children or 16 spaces for every 100 children in this age group. By facilitating the creation of one 25-space program in the medium-term, between 2024 and 2026, Princeton would have 41 full-day preschooler age spaces or child care spaces available for 56% of all children aged 3 to 5 but not yet in school by 2026.

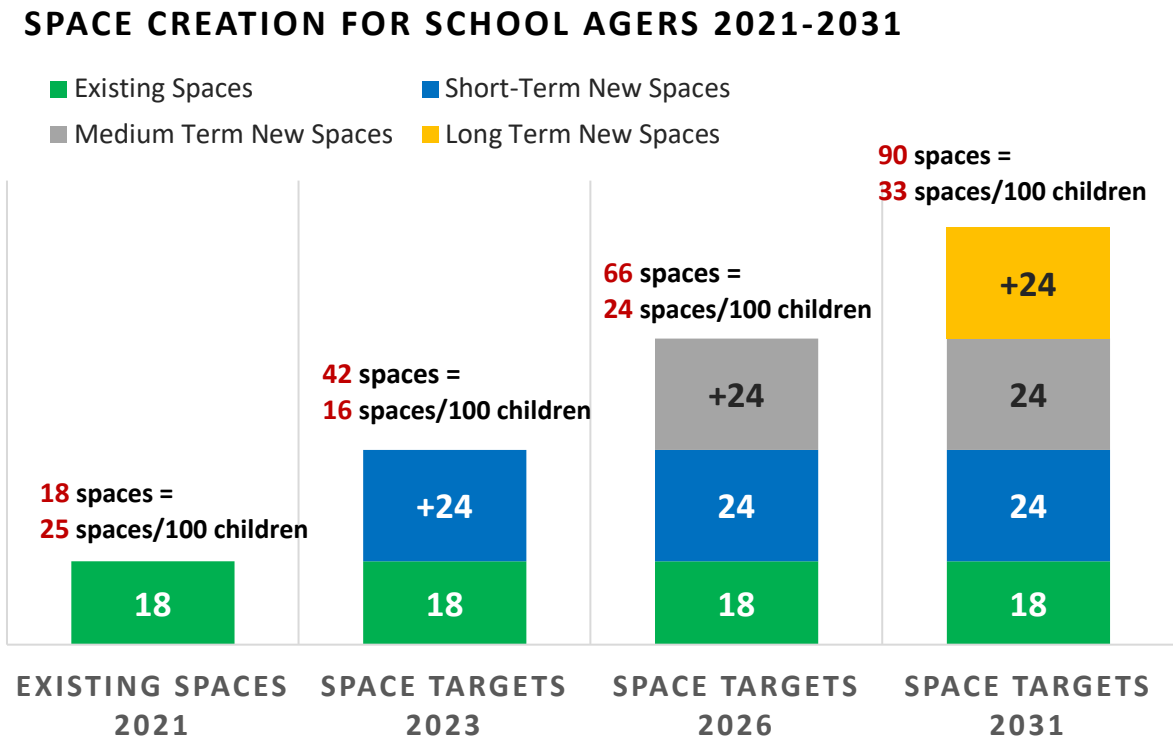
Figure 21: Preschooler space targets, Town of Princeton



School Ager (Kindergarten to 12 Years) Space Targets

Princeton currently has 18 group school ages spaces or about 25 spaces for every 100 school aged children. By helping facilitate the creation of one 24-space program by 2023, one program between 2024 and 2026, and one program between 2027 and 2031, the Town would have 90 school age spaces or child care spaces available for 33% of all school aged children by 2031.

Figure 22: School ager space targets, Town of Princeton



Town of Oliver

The following section highlights key information relevant to child care planning for the Town of Oliver. Please refer to the full regional report above for complete details of the project findings; recommendations applicable to all jurisdictions; the policy context for child care; and the importance of the Action Plan's strategic priority areas of accessibility, affordability, quality, and partnerships.

In addition to the overall recommendations included in the regional report, we recommend that the Town of Oliver review and enhance policy statements in the Health, Wellbeing, and Community Development section of their OCP regarding child care (e.g., incorporate elements from the Grow Oliver Local Economic Development Strategy concerning identification of sites, bringing together partners, and looking for co-location opportunities with recreation facilities).

About Children and Families in Oliver

When planning for child care, it is important to consider not only the number of spaces to be created, but the unique needs of families and children in each community to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone. Pertinent data about children and families in Oliver, including demographic information and income patterns, are presented below. The Town of Oliver is notable for its significant immigrant population, high rate of children in lone parent families, and high rates of kindergarten aged children who would benefit from additional support.

Demographic Highlights

Some families, including those who are Indigenous, recent immigrants, or led by a lone parent, may face additional barriers to accessing child care.

- 3% of Oliver residents are Indigenous (155 individuals).
- 18% of residents are immigrants (840 individuals).
- 27% of all children 0 to 14 live in lone parent families (165 children), one of the highest rates in the region.

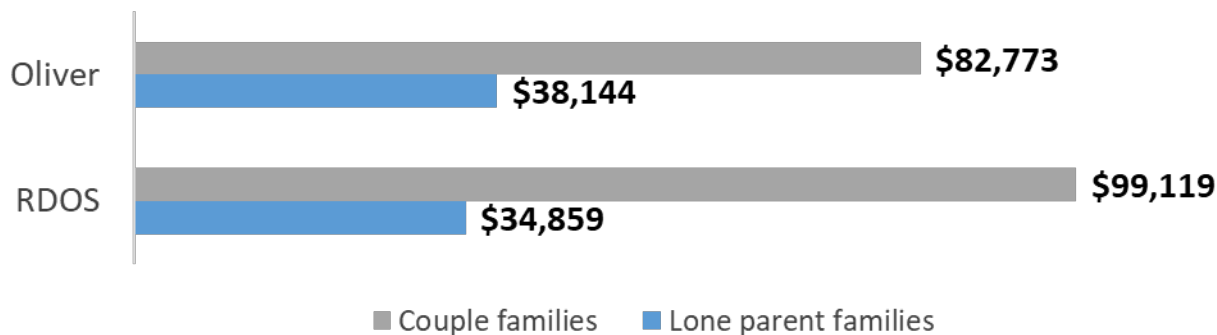
Family Work Patterns

- Only 13% of couple parent families in Oliver have only one earner, suggesting that in most couple parent families, both parents work.

Family Income

Figure 23: Median household income, families with children under 18, Town of Oliver and RDOS

Median household income (before-tax), families with children under 18, 2015



- One in five children under 18 live in low-income families.

Child Vulnerability

- According to UBC's Early Development Indicator (EDI), 43% of kindergarten aged children in the Oliver – OK Falls area, compared with 40% of children in School District 53, are vulnerable on one or more scales of development and would benefit from additional support¹¹.

Parent & Caregiver Survey Highlights

The Parent & Caregiver survey received responses from 32 residents of Oliver, Electoral Area A, and Electoral Area C, providing information about the child care arrangements of 45 children. Given the inclusion of responses from residents of the surrounding electoral areas, which have much lower rates of child care access than the Town of Oliver, these results should be interpreted with caution and may not be fully representative of all families in Oliver. However, the responses are suggestive of some of the child care experiences of families in the area.

- 58% of all respondents reported that they would change their current care arrangement if a preferred alternative became available at a price they could afford.
- 28% of survey respondents reported that it was very difficult to find child care.
- Many respondents from the area experienced wait times.
 - For those using a form of care other than a parent or relative, 43% were on a waitlist to secure that spot.
 - 67% experienced wait times of over six months and 33% of over one year.
- When asked about what factors would most help improve their child care situation, more than half of all respondents selected increased availability of part-time care (56%) and extended hours of care (49%).

¹¹ A complete description of the EDI and detailed reports for each School District can be found at: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/data/>.

- Respondents from Oliver had the lowest rate of satisfaction with the cost of their current care arrangement (25%). 63% reported that lower fees would most help improve their child care situation.

Current & Projected Child Population

According to the 2016 Census, the Town of Oliver has 540 children from birth to age 12. As shown in the Table below, the number of children is expected increase by 2031 (+13%), with projected decrease in number of children under 3 and projected increase for preschooler and school aged children¹².

Table 12: Current and projected child population, Town of Oliver

Age Group		Number of Children 2016	Projected Number of Children 2031	Change 2016 – 2031 #	Change 2016 – 2031 %
Infant-Toddler	0 to 2 years	120	102	-18	-15%
Preschooler Age	3 to 4 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	105	114	+9	+9%
School Age	6 to 12 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	315	394	+79	+25%
Total	0 to 12 years	540	610	+70	+13%

¹² Projected child populations are based on BC Stat's P.E.O.P.L.E. 2020 population projections for the South Okanagan Local Health Area.

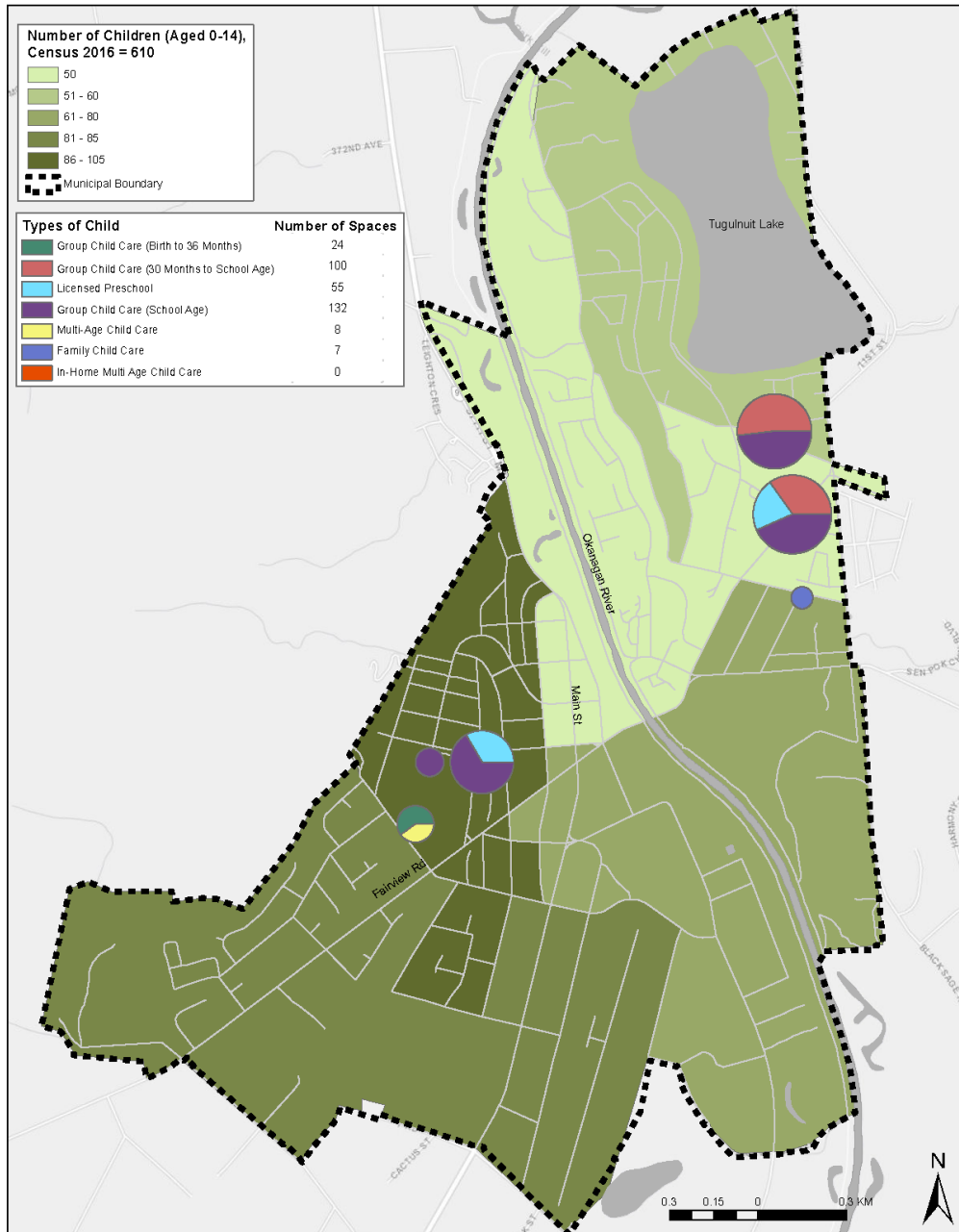
Current Child Care Access

The Town of Oliver has a much higher child care coverage rate than other areas of the region, with a total of 326 licensed child care spaces or 60 spaces for every 100 children 0 to 12. Due to an overall lack of child care services, families often need to travel outside their community to access child care. This means child care services in one jurisdiction, such as Oliver, could be used by families that live in the surrounding electoral areas. However, for the purposes of this Action Plan, we have calculated current child care access rates and space targets separately for each jurisdiction because that is where each municipality has direct jurisdiction.

The map below shows where current child care spaces are located, relative to child population. Areas of Town with large child populations but few child care spaces should be prioritized when considering locations of new spaces to reach space targets.

Figure 24: Map of child care facilities and spaces, Town of Oliver

Oliver – Child Care Facilities & Spaces, 2020

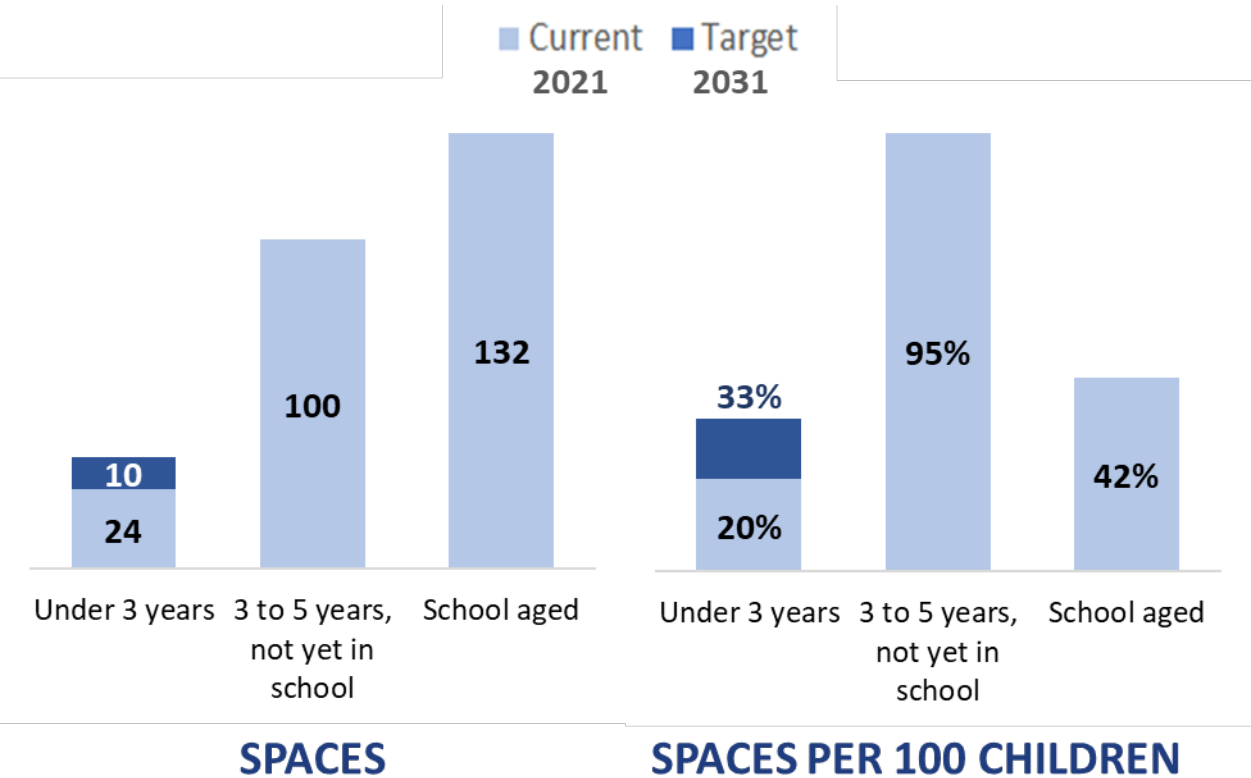


Ten-Year Child Care Access Targets

The space targets presented below are based on projected child population for 2031. Given its high rates of child care access relative to other areas of the region, to reach the recommended space targets, Oliver would need only 10 additional group spaces by 2031.

Because the targets for preschooler and school age children have already been met, these spaces would all be infant-toddler, to bring the access rate for children under 3 up to 33%. By creating one 12-space infant-toddler program, the Town of Oliver would meet this target.

Figure 25: Child care space targets, Town of Oliver



Village of Keremeos

The following section highlights key information relevant to child care planning for the Village of Keremeos. Please refer to the full regional report above for complete details of the project findings; recommendations applicable to all jurisdictions; the policy context for child care; and the importance of the Action Plan's strategic priority areas of accessibility, affordability, quality, and partnerships.

About Children and Families in Keremeos

When planning for child care, it is important to consider not only the number of spaces to be created, but the unique needs of families and children in each community to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone. Pertinent data about children and families in Keremeos, including demographic information and income patterns, are presented below.

The high vulnerability rate in the Keremeos – Cawston area and high rate of children in lone parent families are notable, and underlie the urgency of developing more high quality, affordable, and accessible child care options in this area.

Demographic Highlights

Some families, including those who are Indigenous, recent immigrants, or led by a lone parent, may face additional barriers to accessing child care.

- 3% of Keremeos residents are Indigenous (50 individuals).
- 14% of residents are immigrants (195 individuals).
- 29% of all children 0 to 14 live in lone parent families (40 children), the highest rate in the region.

Family Work Patterns

- One-quarter of all couple parent homes in Keremeos have only one earner, which is higher than the regional rate.

Family Income

- In Keremeos in 2015, the median gross income for all families with children under 18 was \$79,616. This is similar to the median income for all families in the Regional District (\$79,186).
 - Unfortunately, due to small population size and need to protect confidentiality, it is not possible to compare lone parent and couple parent family incomes in Keremeos. However, as noted in the regional report, across the Regional District, the median income of lone parent families is about one-third the median income of couple parent families. This is especially notable as Keremeos has the highest share of children living in lone parent families of any community in the region.
- 26% of all children under the age of 18 live in low-income families.

Child Vulnerability

- According to UBC's Early Development Indicator (EDI), 56% of kindergarten aged children in the Keremeos - Cawston area, compared with 40% in School District 53, are vulnerable on one or more scales of development and would benefit from additional support¹³.

Parent & Caregiver Survey Highlights

The Parent & Caregiver survey received responses from 54 residents of Keremeos, Electoral Area B, and Electoral Area G, providing information about the child care arrangements of 67 children. Given the inclusion of responses from residents of the surrounding electoral areas, these results should be interpreted with caution and may not be fully representative of all families in Keremeos. However, the responses are suggestive of some of the child care experiences of families in the area.

- 86% of parents with a child care arrangement other than a parent or relative reported that finding this arrangement was very difficult, compared with 44% across the region.
- Many families experienced long waitlist times.
 - For those using a form of care other than a parent or relative, 48% had been on a waitlist to secure that child care spot, compared with 54% across the region.
 - However, 92% of those who had been on a waitlist experienced waits of over six months and 33% were on waitlists for over one year.
- Parents and caregivers in Keremeos had much higher likelihood of reporting need for part-time care than parents in other communities. 57% reported that increased availability of part-time child care spaces was one of the factors that would most help improve their child care situation.
- When parents were asked about their satisfaction with their current care arrangement, only 42% were satisfied with current hours of care, the lowest rate in the region. Extended hours of care was also the most commonly selected choice for factors that would most improve parents' child care situation (67%).

¹³ A complete description of the EDI and detailed reports for each School District can be found at: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/data/>.

Current & Projected Child Population

According to the 2016 Census, the Village of Keremeos has about 125 children from birth to age 12. As shown in the Table below, the number of children is expected increase by 2031 (+14%), with projected population growth for school aged children in particular¹⁴.

Table 13: Current and projected child population, Village of Keremeos

Age Group		Number of Children 2016	Projected Number of Children 2031	Change 2016 – 2031 #	Change 2016 – 2031 %
Infant-Toddler	0 to 2 years	30	29	-1	-3%
Preschooler Age	3 to 4 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	23	23	-	-
School Age	6 to 12 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	73	92	+19	+26%
Total	0 to 12 years	126	144	+18	+14%

Current Child Care Access

In total, the Village of Keremeos has 42 licensed child care spaces or 34 spaces for every 100 children.

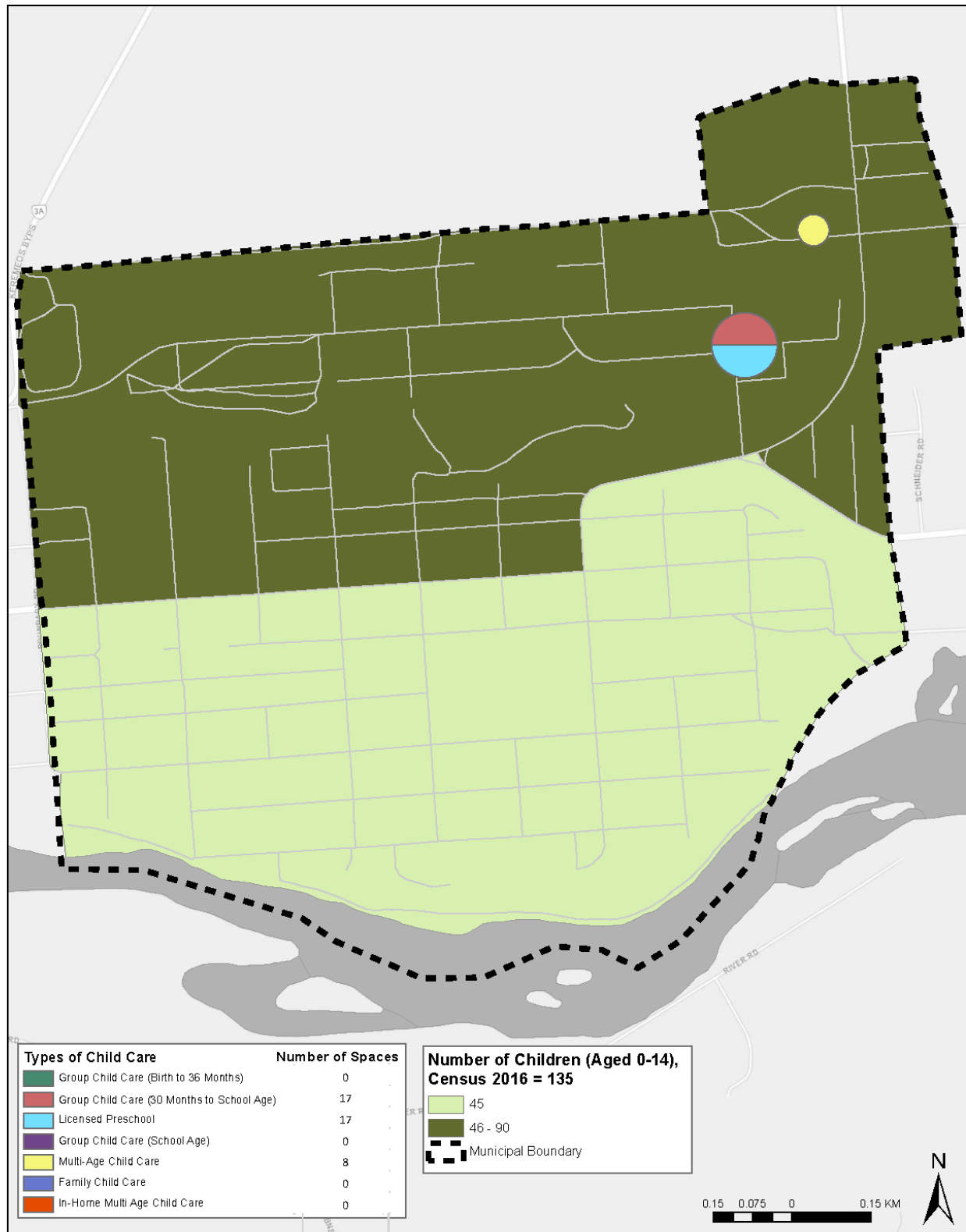
Due to an overall lack of child care services, families often need to travel outside their community to access child care. This means child care services in one jurisdiction, such as Keremeos, could be used by families that live in the surrounding electoral areas. However, for the purposes of this Action Plan, we have calculated current child care access rates and space targets separately for each jurisdiction because that is where each municipality has direct jurisdiction.

The map below shows where current child care spaces are located, relative to child population. Areas of the Village with large child populations but few child care spaces should be prioritized when considering locations of new spaces to reach space targets.

¹⁴ Projected child populations are based on BC Stat's P.E.O.P.L.E. 2020 population projections for the Keremeos Local Health Area.

Figure 26: Map of child care facilities and spaces, Village of Keremeos

Keremeos – Child Care Facilities & Spaces, 2020



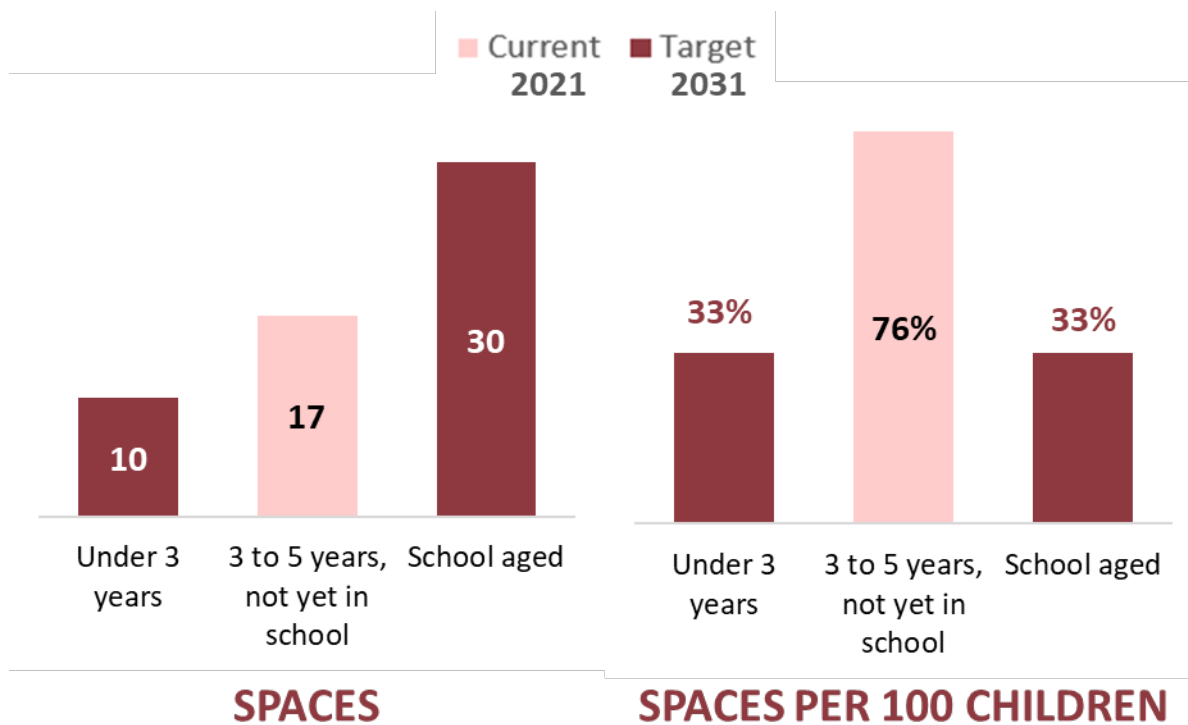
Ten-Year Child Care Access Targets

The space targets presented below are based on projected child population for 2031 and are aligned with the Regional recommendations. To reach the recommended space targets, Keremeos would need an additional 40 group spaces by 2031.

Space targets have already been met for group programs for preschooler age children, so no additional spaces are required for this group.

There are currently no group infant-toddler or school aged programs. One 12-space infant-toddler program and one 24-space school aged program would meet space targets for the Village.

Figure 27: Child care space targets, Village of Keremeos



Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS)

The following section highlights key information relevant to child care planning for the unincorporated electoral areas of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS). Please refer to the full regional report above for complete details of the project findings; recommendations applicable to all jurisdictions; the policy context for child care; and the importance of the Action Plan's strategic priority areas of accessibility, affordability, quality, and partnerships.

For reference, the unincorporated electoral areas of the Regional District include the following communities:

- **Electoral Area A:** Rural Osoyoos (excludes Town of Osoyoos)
- **Electoral Area B:** Cawston and Lower Similkameen
- **Electoral Area C:** Rural Oliver (excludes Town of Oliver)
- **Electoral Areas D:** Skaha East and OK Falls
- **Electoral Area E:** Naramata
- **Electoral Area F:** Rural Summerland, Okanagan Lake West, Greater West Bench
- **Electoral Area G:** Rural Keremeos, Hedley, Olalla
- **Electoral Area H:** Rural Princeton, Tulameen, Coalmont, Eastgate
- **Electoral Area I:** Skaha West, Kaleden, Apex

In addition to the overall recommendations included in the regional report, we also recommend that the Regional District (RDOS) strengthen statements in the South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) regarding the importance of child care to the South Okanagan-Similkameen's social and economic well-being (e.g., enhance policies in Community Health and Wellbeing section). This action could be under-taken in the short term, in partnership with School Districts, Interior Health, not-for-profit child care providers, and community agencies.

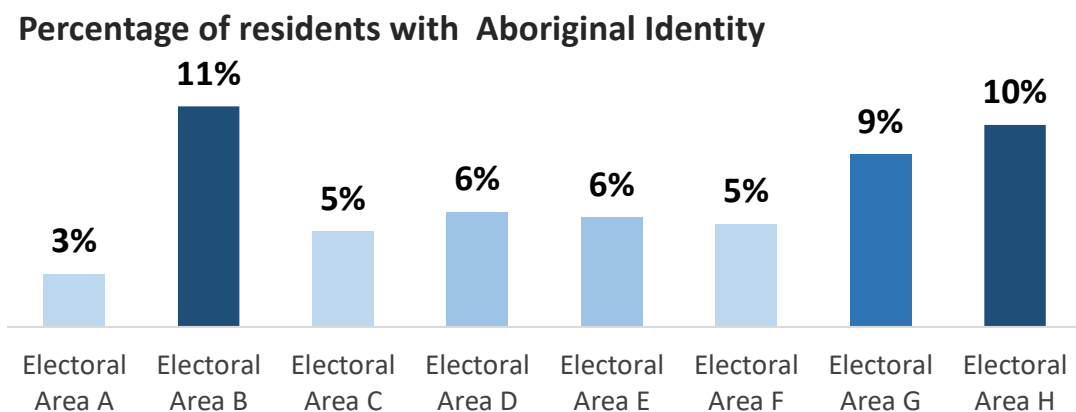
About Children and Families in the Electoral Areas

When planning for child care across the Regional District, it is important to consider not only the number of spaces to be created, but the unique needs of families and children in each community to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone. Pertinent data highlights about children and families in the electoral areas, including demographic information and income patterns, are presented below.

Indigenous population

Indigenous children deserve access to culturally safe and appropriate care. As shown in the Figure below, the share of Indigenous residents in the population ranges from 3% in Electoral Area A to 10% in Electoral Area H.

Figure 28: Residents with Aboriginal identity, RDOS Electoral Areas

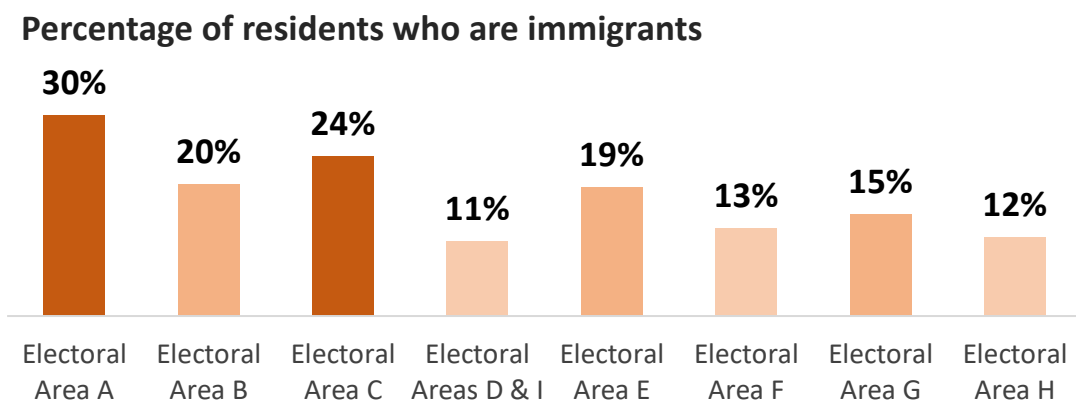


*Source: Statistics Canada. Census 2016.

Residents by immigration status

As shown in Figure 34, the share of immigrant residents in the population ranges from 11% in Electoral Areas D & I to 30% in Electoral Area A. Newcomer families and children may have additional barriers to accessing child care, including language barriers and gaps in implicit knowledge around navigating the local child care system.

Figure 29: Residents who are immigrants, RDOS Electoral Areas

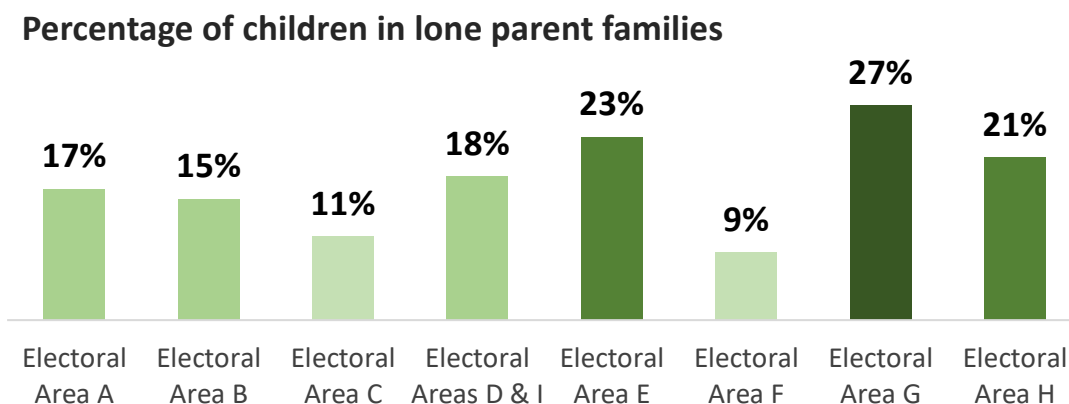


*Source: Statistics Canada. Census 2016.

Children in lone parent families

Lone parent families often face additional barriers to accessing the child care they need. As shown in Figure 35, the share of children in lone parent families ranges widely between electoral areas, from 9% in Electoral Area F to 27% in Electoral Area G.

Figure 30: Children in lone parent families, RDOS Electoral Areas



*Source: Statistics Canada. Census 2016.

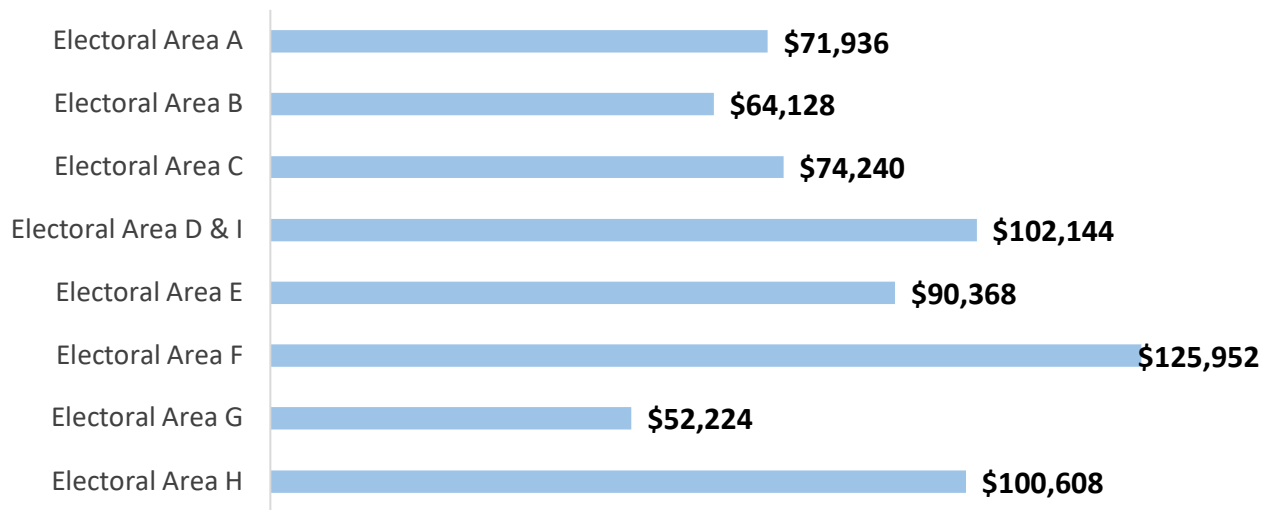
Household Incomes

Affordability is a barrier to accessing child care and a significant source of financial stress for many families. To help contextualize affordability across the region, Figure 36 shows median incomes for all families with children under 18 in the unincorporated electoral areas. Median incomes for families with children range from \$52,224 in Electoral Area G to \$125,952 in Electoral Area F.

Unfortunately, due to small population sizes, median incomes for lone parent families are not available for most electoral areas, so it is not possible to directly compare incomes of couple and lone parent families. However, as noted in the regional report, across the Regional District, the median income of lone parent families is about one-third the median income of couple parent families.

Figure 31: Median household income for families with children under 18, RDOS Electoral Areas

Gross median household incomes for families with children under 18

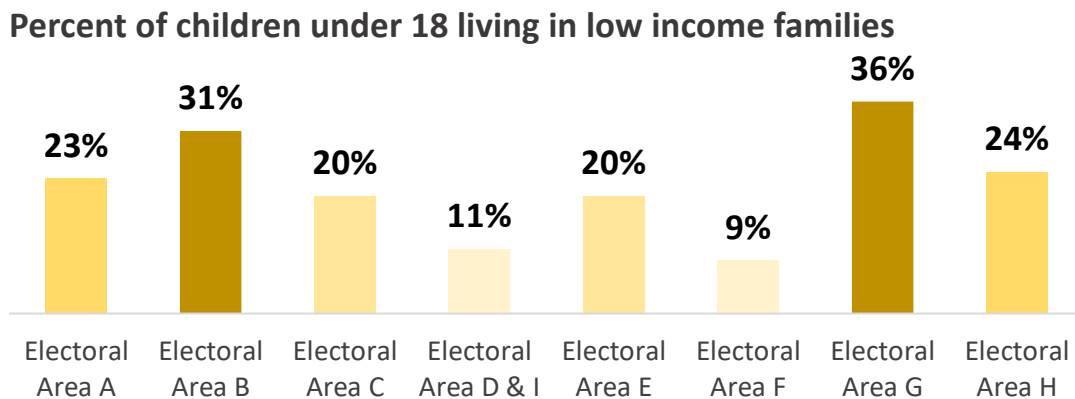


*Source: Statistics Canada. Census 2016.

Children in low income families

Figure 37 shows the share of children under 18 living in low income families in each electoral area. The after-tax low income measure threshold is 50% of median household income across Canada, adjusted for family size. For the 2016 Census, the after-tax low income threshold ranged from \$31,301 for a two-person household to \$58,558 for a seven-person household¹⁵. In the electoral areas, the share of children living in low income households ranged from 9% in Electoral Area F to 36% in Electoral Area G.

Figure 32: Children living in low income families, RDOS Electoral Areas



*Source: Statistics Canada. Census 2016.

¹⁵ For more detail about the low-income measure thresholds, please see: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/tab/t4_2-eng.cfm.

Current & Projected Child Population Child Care Access

According to the 2016 Census, the unincorporated electoral areas have about 1,800 children from birth to age 12. As shown in the Table below, the number of children under 3 years is projected to decrease slightly by 2031 (-3%), while the numbers of preschooler age and school age children are projected to increase¹⁶.

Table 14: Current and projected child population, unincorporated electoral areas of Regional District

Age Group		Number of Children, 2016	Projected Number of Children, 2031	Change 2016 – 2031 #	Change 2016 – 2031 %
Infant-Toddler	0 to 2 years	330	321	-9	-3%
Preschooler Age	3 to 4 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	323	356	+33	+10%
School Age	6 to 12 years (and half of all 5-year-olds)	1,148	1,336	+188	+16%
Total	0 to 12 years	1,801	2,013	+212	+12%

Current Child Care Access

In total, the unincorporated electoral areas have 122 total licensed child care spaces or seven spaces for every 100 children from birth to age 12.

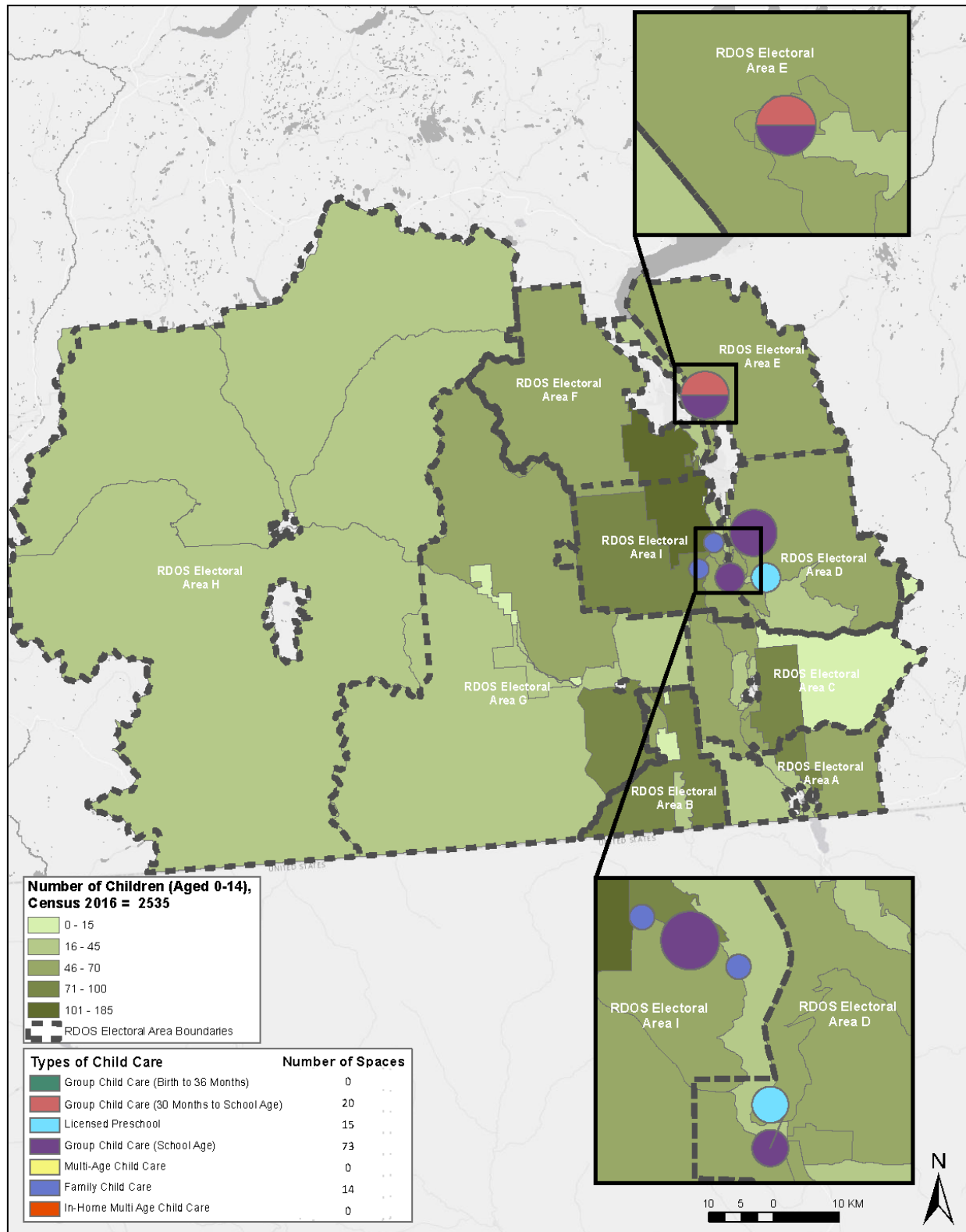
Due to an overall lack of child care services, families often need to travel outside their community to access child care. This means child care services in the municipalities are sometimes used by families that live in the surrounding electoral areas. However, for the purposes of this Action Plan, we have calculated current child care access rates and space targets separately for each municipality and for the combined electoral areas, according to jurisdiction.

As shown in the map below, child care access varies across the region. Several electoral areas have no licensed child care whatsoever: Electoral Areas A, B, C, F, G, and H. None of the electoral areas have group infant-toddler child care. Areas with no child care and higher child populations should be prioritized when considering location of new spaces to meet the space targets. Child care spaces should also be located on or near existing public assets, such as schools and community centres.

¹⁶ Projected child populations are based on BC Stat's P.E.O.P.L.E. 2020 population projections for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Figure 33: Child care facilities and spaces, RDOS Electoral Areas

RDOS Electoral Areas – Child Care Facilities & Spaces, 2020

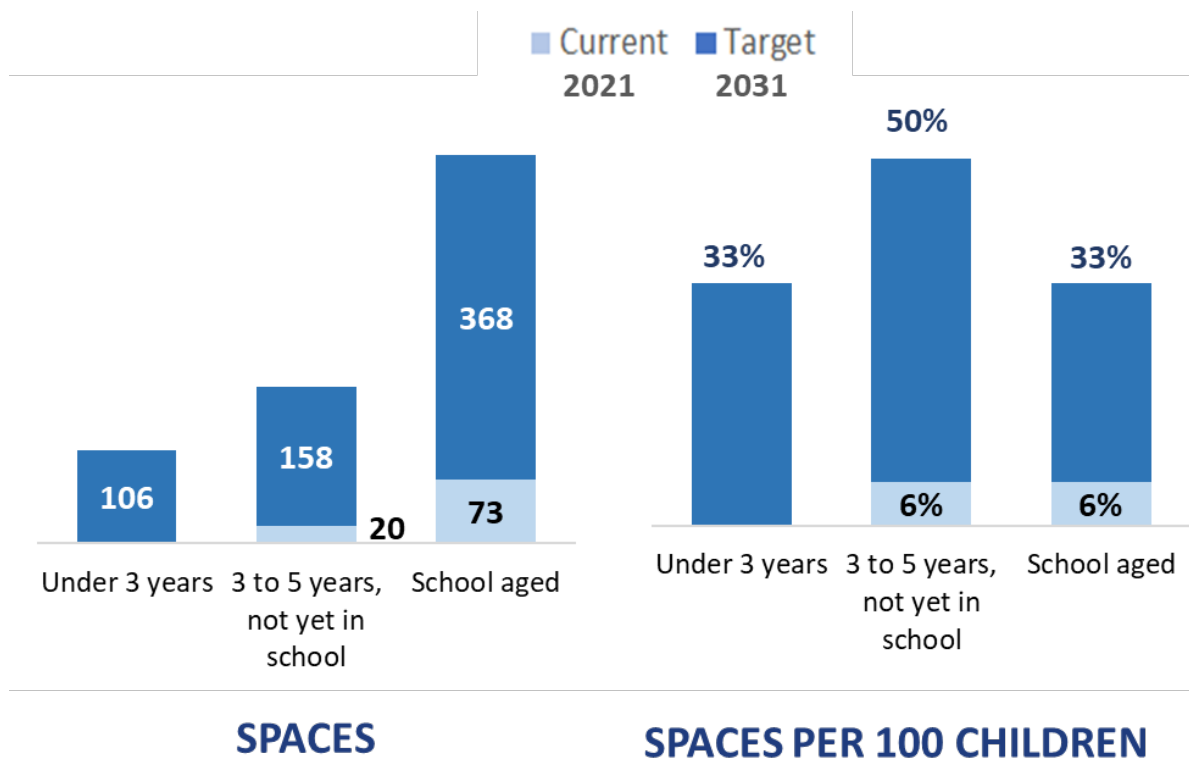


Ten-Year Child Care Access Targets

The space targets presented below are based on projected child population for 2031 and are aligned with the Regional recommendations.

To reach the recommended space targets, the electoral areas would need an additional 632 group spaces for children aged 0 to 12 by 2031.

Figure 34: Child care space targets, RDOS Electoral Areas



Short, Medium and Long Term Recommended Targets

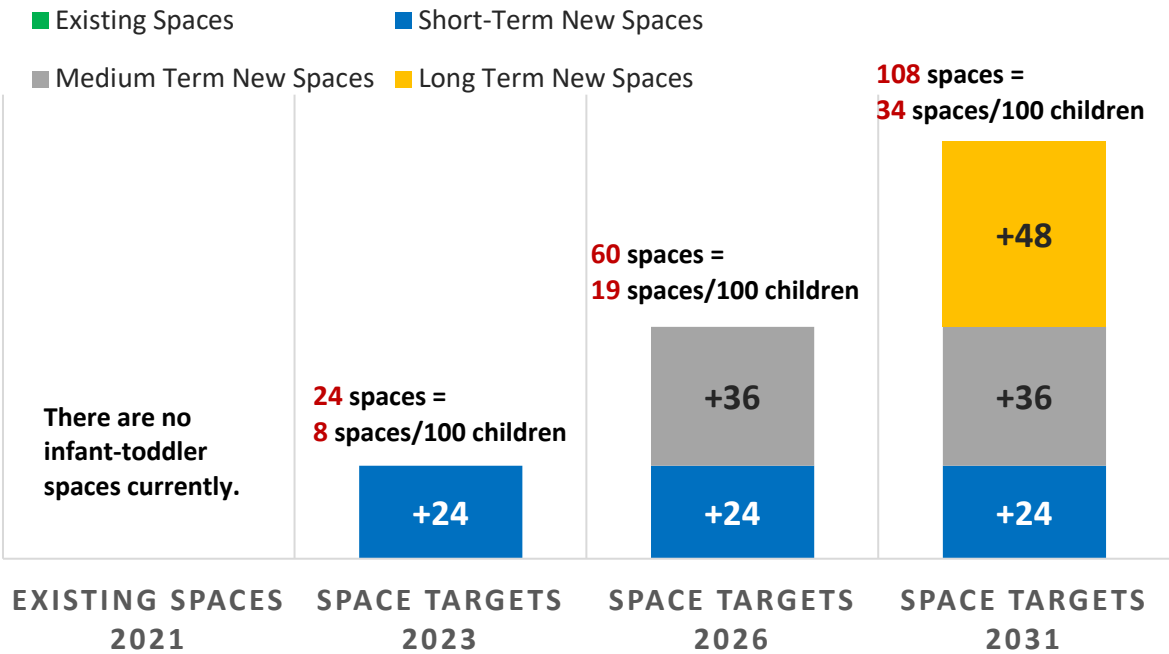
We have calculated the targeted number of spaces to be created for each age group for the short (2021 - 2023), medium (2024 - 2026), and long-term (2027 – 2031) (see chart below). To provide a “real world” basis for the targets, the calculations reflect the maximum group sizes for each program type as per licensing regulations (i.e., 12-space group birth to 36-month programs, 25-space group 30-month to school age programs, and 24-space school age programs). As a result, the total number of new spaces shown in the charts below may vary by a few spaces from the numbers of new spaces shown in the Figure 29 above.

Infant-Toddler (Under 3 Years) Space Targets

The unincorporated electoral areas of the Regional District currently have no group infant-toddler spaces. By facilitating the creation of two 12-space programs by 2023 (24 spaces), three programs between 2024 and 2026 (36 spaces), and four programs between 2027 and 2031 (48 spaces), the electoral areas would have 108 infant-toddler spaces or child care spaces available for 34% of all children under 3 years by 2031.

Figure 35: Infant-toddler space targets, RDOS Electoral Areas

SPACE CREATION FOR INFANT-TODDLERS 2021-2031

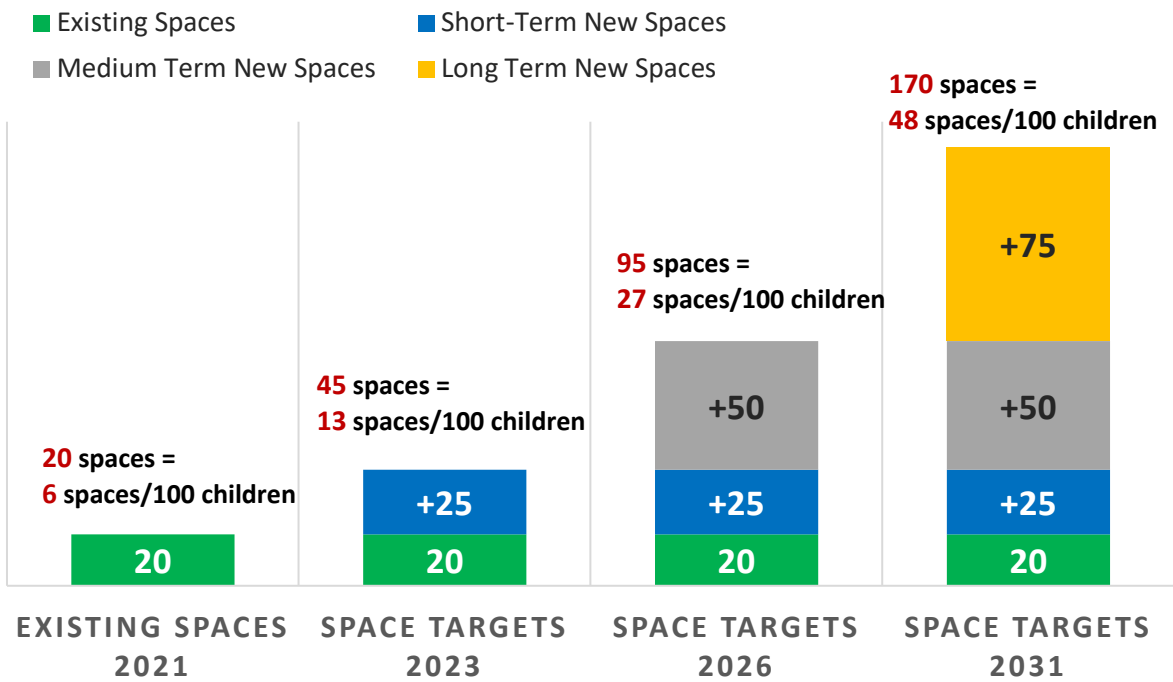


Preschooler Age (3 to 5 Not Yet in School) Space Targets

The unincorporated electoral areas of the Regional District currently have 20 full-day group spaces for preschooler age children or about 6 spaces for every 100 children in this age group. By facilitating the creation of one 25-space program by 2023, two programs between 2024 and 2026 (50 spaces), and three programs between 2027 and 2031 (75 spaces), the electoral areas would have 170 full-day preschooler age spaces or child care spaces available for 48% of all children aged 3 to 5 but not yet in school by 2031.

Figure 36: Preschooler space targets, RDOS Electoral Areas

SPACE CREATION FOR PRESCHOOLERS 2021-2031

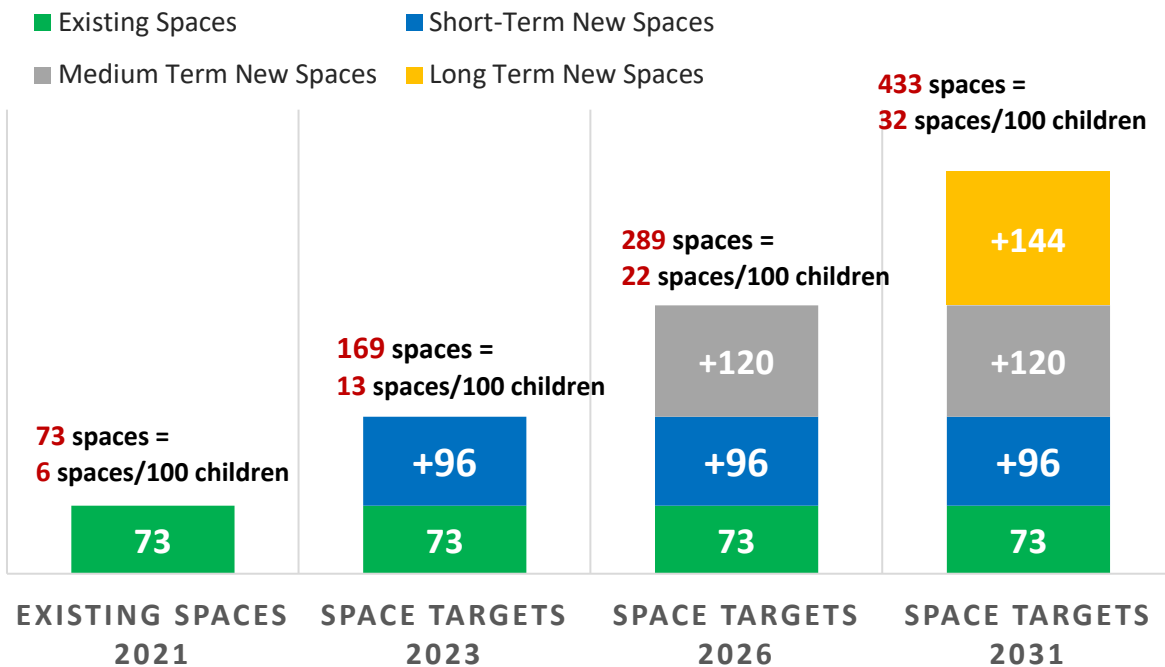


School Ager (Kindergarten to 12 Years) Space Targets

The unincorporated electoral areas of the Regional District currently have 73 group school ages spaces or about 6 spaces for every 100 school aged children. By helping facilitate the creation of four 24-space programs by 2023 (96 spaces), five programs between 2024 and 2026 (120 spaces), and six programs between 2027 and 2031 (144 spaces), the electoral areas would have 433 school age spaces or child care spaces available for 32% of all school aged children by 2031.

Figure 37: School ager space targets, RDOS Electoral Areas

SPACE CREATION FOR SCHOOL AGERS 2021-2031



Appendix A: Summary of All Regional Recommendations

For the purposes of this Action Plan, short term is defined as between 2021 and 2023, medium term is 2024 to 2026, and long term is 2027 to 2031.

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
Policy and Planning			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1	Develop a South Okanagan Similkameen Regional Child Care Policy for local governments, providing a consolidated statement of the Region's vision, goals, strategies and commitments to child care, including a strong link to the City of Penticton and the Town of Osoyoos Child Care Action Plans	Short	School Districts 53, 58, 67, child care operators, community agencies, City of Penticton and Town of Osoyoos
2	Review and amend Official Community Plans (OCPs) to: a) Include reference to the importance of child care to overall economic and social wellbeing; and b) Incorporate specific goals, policies, and strategies for facilitating or encouraging development of child care in the region (e.g., through collaboration with School Districts and other partners). For example, City of Coquitlam's OCP states "it is important that the City uses its policy and regulatory tools to support the development of a sufficient number of child care spaces to meet community need and to enhance neighbourhood livability".	Short/Medium	School Districts 53, 58, 67, child care operators, community agencies

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
3	Endorse the space targets identified in this report, recognizing that local governments do not have the mandate and resources to reach the targets alone. • Infant/Toddler: 221 new spaces or 33% coverage rate • Preschooler: 231 new spaces or 50% coverage rate • School Ager: 648 new spaces or 33% coverage rate Please see section on Space Targets below for more details.	Short	Child Care Providers, School Districts 53, 58 & 67, Interior Health, Community Agencies
4	Establish a Regional Child Care Action Group comprised of representatives from the child care sector, community service providers, the School Districts and key staff from each of the project partner jurisdictions (Summerland, Keremeos, Princeton, Oliver and the Regional District). Staff from the City of Penticton and Town of Osoyoos should also be invited to join the group. This group would work together to focus on: a) Assessing evolving child care needs b) Implementing and monitoring the Child Care Action Plan c) Tracking changes related to the shift of child care to the Ministry of Education	Short/Medium/Long	Not-for-profit providers, School Districts 53, 58, 67, community agencies and service providers, Interior Health Licensing, First Nations Bands, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos, post-secondary institutions
5	Formally identify a current staff position in each partner jurisdiction to be the internal and external child care point-person. This role would be to provide leadership on child care planning, monitoring the Action Plan and to support prospective child care space applications through local government permit and licensing processes.	Short	None

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
6	Explore the feasibility of a region-wide inter-jurisdictional staff position dedicated to child care which would focus on: a) Monitoring the progress of implementing the recommendations and meeting targets b) Reporting annually to Councils, the RD Board, the School Districts c) Facilitating partnerships, and engaging with the Province, the three school districts, Interior Health and community partners d) Identifying locations for new, not-for-profit and public, quality child care	Medium/Long	School Districts 53, 58 & 67, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
7	Work with other public partners (e.g., Interior Health, School Districts 53, 38 & 67, local First Nations) to create (and then maintain) an inventory of prospective opportunities for child care development by identifying: a) Potential land or facilities that could be used for child care b) Underutilized or vacant spaces or land, including schools, parks or crown land that could be repurposed for child care c) Public assets (buildings and land) that are slated for capital redevelopment (i.e., local hospital) d) Existing child care facilities that have expansion potential e) Buildings that may be slated for demolition	Short/Medium/Long	Interior Health, School Districts 53, 58 & 67, not-for-profit child care providers, post-secondary institutions

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
8	Work with public partners to access Provincial capital funds to build child care spaces and consider: a) Developing building models/prototypes and high-level cost estimates to facilitate planning for new child care facilities, exploring both permanent and modular builds b) Exploring a structured partnership with the Province for multiple programs and multiple sites c) Consider ways to support non-profit and public partners to complete the grant application and/or develop their budget for the construction costs	Short/Medium	Province, not-for-profit operators
9	Build formal partnerships and joint planning protocols with the School Districts to: a) Structure regular and ongoing communication between the local governments and School Districts b) Support the Provincial direction of universal school age care and the commitment to move child care to the Ministry of Education c) Facilitate the use of school spaces and grounds for school age care operations, where possible d) Explore expansion of School District 53's seamless before and after school model to all school districts e) Explore the use of empty, surplus school land and buildings for infant/toddler and preschooler age child care; and f) Explore innovative opportunities for school age programming on professional development days and school breaks including summer	Short/Medium	School Districts 53, 58, 67

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
10	Commit to maintaining accurate and up-to-date data to support child care planning by: a) Updating the Action Plan's Community Profile when new census data is available b) Working with the Child Care Resource & Referral Program and Interior Health to keep the Child Care Space Inventory up-to-date	Ongoing	Child Care Resource and Referral Program, Interior Health
11	Employ a 'child care lens' in all future plans and policies (e.g., affordable housing, economic development), ensuring that the child care impacts and opportunities are considered as the plans and policies are being developed.	Short/Medium/Long	BC Housing, Interior Health
12	Work with the Child Care Action Group and current providers to further explore options for offering more flexible child care services including, but not limited to: a) Further needs assessments with community members/employers who work in '24-hour' sectors, such as tourism, health, emergency services and those who work in agricultural/seasonal sectors b) Offering more part-time spaces or longer hours in the current programs (e.g., rather than 25 spaces of full-time in a program, offer 23 full time and 2 spaces that are available 2 to 3 days per week each)	Medium	Child Care Action Group suggested in recommendation # 4, Province, Interior Health, not-for-profit providers, School Districts, Employers
13	Work with internal and external partners to develop informal after-school programs that support children aged 10-12 years (the age group which is less likely to attend licensed programs)	Medium	Not-for-profit sector, School District 53, 57 and 68

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
Regulations and Development Processes			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
14	Review all zoning bylaws to ensure that: d) The language is consistent (e.g., referring to ‘child care’ rather than ‘day care’), modern, and transparent e) Child care uses can be accommodated in all zoning districts provided that there is no threat to children’s health and safety f) Other appropriate provisions for accommodating child care are identified (i.e., safe parking area including space for drop off/pick up, ample outdoor space)	Medium	Not-for-profit providers, School District 53, 57 and 68, Interior Health
15	When facilitating or planning new spaces, wherever possible, prioritize: e) Spaces for age groups which are most underserved, namely infant/toddler and school-age f) Spaces that serve multiple ages in one location and offer flexible services like part-time or non-traditional hours g) Building child care spaces on existing publicly owned land and build onto existing public facilities such as community centres (rather than stand-alone structures) h) Development in areas of the Region with lower access rates and/or growing populations and in locations that are easily accessible for families	Short/Medium/Long	Child Care providers, School District 53, 57 and 68, Interior Health
16	Host regional child care information meetings for potential child care providers who are interested in opening child care spaces, covering such matters as the roles of both local governments and Interior	Short/Medium	Interior Health, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
	Health in licensing, and provision of information on the planning and approval processes in each jurisdiction.		
17	Gather and centralize comprehensive information about child care for families and child care providers on local government websites, highlighting the following: c) Information for families seeking child care (e.g., links to the Child Care Resource and Referral and the BC Child Care Map) d) Information for prospective child care operators (e.g., a step-by-step guide to procedures, submission requirements, zoning, information, permits and links to BC's licensing regulations, with the information aligning with Interior Health where appropriate).	Medium	Child care providers, Interior Health, Child Care Resource and Referral Program
18	Work with Interior Health Community Care Licensing to review both the local government and health authority regulations and processes for 'licensing' new child care spaces to explore ways to streamline and collaboratively support approval processes.	Short/Medium	Interior Health, child care providers

Recommendations to Improve Affordability			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
19	Create a local government grant program for not-for-profit child care centres to assist with facility upgrades and maintenance or to extend operating hours.	Short/Medium	Not-for-profit providers
20	Monitor child care fees in the region	Ongoing	Child Care Resource and Referral Program
21	Lease or rent local government-owned facilities or land to not-for-profit child care providers at no cost or below-market rates.	Ongoing	Not-for-profit providers
22	Advocate to senior governments to reduce the cost of child care for families	Short/Medium/Long	School District 53, 57 and 68, Child Care Operators, community agencies, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
23	Partner with the Child Care Resource and Referral Program to more proactively promote BC's Affordable Child Care Benefit Program for lower income families so that: c) More families are aware of the program and its eligibility criteria and application process (i.e., annual income threshold up to \$111,000) d) More child care providers are aware of the program and can help parents with the application process	Short/Medium/Long	Local child care providers, community agencies, Child Care and Resource Program
24	Work with the Child Care Action Group and local child care providers to explore ways to offer: c) More part-time spaces within existing programs, in turn making the cost of care more affordable for lower income families d) Priority access to some spaces for lower income families	Medium	Child Care Action Group suggested in recommendation # 4, local child care providers, community agencies, Child Care and Resource Program

Recommendations to Promote and Influence Quality			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
25	In considering the development of local government-owned child care spaces ensure that: d) Partners are not-for-profit and/or public child care providers e) Local government policy expectations are met (e.g., affordable child care fees) f) Local/regional governments consider the efficacy of developing facility design guidelines that are based on what the research states is best practice for child care (e.g., square footage for indoor and outdoor space that exceed the minimum Provincial Licensing Requirements)	Short	Not-for-profit providers, School District 53, 57 and 68, Interior Health
26	Support the province in its <i>“Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy”</i> initiative and its commitment to Inclusion through joint advocacy.	Short	School District 53, 57 and 68, Child Care Providers, Community Agencies, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
27	Engage in ongoing dialogue with First Nations and Métis, focusing on meeting the needs of Indigenous families/children and supporting high quality, culturally rooted and safe programming.	Ongoing	First Nations Bands, South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association
28	Explore ways of increasing local ECE training and practicum opportunities, including engaging with: c) The Lower Similkameen Indian Band to see if their current ECE training pilot could be extended d) Post-secondary institutions to see if they could offer more local and/or remote ECE training options (i.e. Northern Lights College pilot)	Short/Medium	Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Northern Lights College, other post-secondary institutions
29	Work with the Child Care Action Group and the Supported Child Care Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development Programs to ensure the needs of children who require additional support are being met, pursuing such measures as:	Short/Medium	Child Care Action Group, suggested in recommendation # 4, Supported Child Development

Recommendations to Promote and Influence Quality			
	c) Providing information sessions for parents and child care providers about the services and supports that are available d) Coordinating networking and/or professional development opportunities for child care providers		Programs, Child Care Providers
30	Collaborate on approaches for enhancing the attractiveness and sustainability of employment in the child care field by: c) Working with the School Districts to explore a dual credit ECE Program for local high school students to encourage local employment in child care d) Working with local child care providers to offer ECE practicums	Medium	School Districts 53, 58, 67, child care providers, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos
31	Consider the need for Early Childhood Educators and child care in a formal Workforce Development or Business and Economic Development Strategies	Medium – ongoing	Local business planners, researchers
32	Work with the Child Care Action Group and the School Districts to offer ongoing training on BC's Early Learning Framework for local child care providers	Short - ongoing	Child Care Action Group suggested in recommendation # 4, School District 53, 57 and 68, Child Care Resource and Referral Program, Child Care Providers

Recommendations to Develop Collaboration and Partnerships			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
	Recommendations 1, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 16, 22 – 24, 26 – 30, 32 outlined earlier also involve strong collaboration and partnerships.		

33	Build collaborative and learning relationships with First Nations and Métis, to support Indigenous history, culture, and perspectives into child care.	Ongoing	First Nations and Métis
34	Consider the development of a public education/communication campaign that includes messaging on the needs for child care, the importance of child care to the community, and the actions that are underway to improve the child care situation in the Region	Short /Medium	Child Care Action Group (the group proposed in recommendation # 4)
35	Advocate to senior governments to support the child care sector and families by: a) Ensuring the needs of the South Okanagan-Similkameen children are a priority for new spaces in provincial planning and funding b) Developing strategies to facilitate the recruitment, remuneration and retention of ECEs, including the recommendation in # 25 above c) Increasing resources to support children with additional needs d) Lowering fees for families e) Providing funding to support flexible, non-traditional hours of care f) Addressing other priority child care issues that may arise in the future.	Short/Medium	Community Agencies, School District 53, 57 and 68
36	Pursue partnership opportunities with employers (e.g., in the tourism sector) to provide spaces for child care facilities that serve their employees' families and community. These could be joint projects with the involvement of several employers and not-for-profit child care providers).	Short/Medium/Long	Local employers, Chamber of Commerce
37	Share information and collaborate with the City of Penticton and the Town of Osoyoos on regional actions and ongoing planning.	Short/Medium/Long	City of Penticton and the Town of Osoyoos

Appendix B: Glossary of Child Care Types in BC

Child Care Type	Ages	Max Group Size
LICENSED CHILD CARE Licensed child care facilities are monitored and regularly inspected by regional health authorities. They must meet specific requirements for health and safety, staffing qualifications, record keeping, space and equipment, child-to-staff ratios, and programming.	Group child care – under 3 years	From birth to 36 months 12 children
	Group child care – 2.5 years old to school age	From 30 months to school age (Kindergarten) 25 children
	Group child care – school age (before-and-after school care)	School age (Kindergarten and up) 24 children from Kindergarten and Grade 1 or 30 children from Grade 2 and older with no Kindergarten or Grade 1 children present
	Multi-age child care	From birth to 12 years old 8 children, having no more than 3 children younger than 36 months old and, of those 3, no more than one child younger than 12 months old or having no more than 3 children younger than 36 months old
	In-home multi-age child care	From birth to 12 years old 8 children, having no more than 3 children under 36 months old and, of those 3, no more than one child younger than 12 months old; or having no more than 3 children younger than 36 months old
	Family child care	From birth to 12 years old 7 children, having no more than 3 children younger than 48 months old and, of those 3, no more than one child younger than 12 months old; or having no more than 4 children younger than 48 months old and, of those 4, no more than 2 children younger than 24 months old
	Preschool – 2.5 years old to school age	From 30 months to school age (Kindergarten) 20 children
	Occasional child care	18 months old and up 16 children if children under 36 months are present or 20 children if children under 36 months are not present

REGISTERED LICENSE-NOT-REQUIRED CHILD CARE These are unlicensed care providers. They must have registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre. To register, operators must have completed: criminal record checks (for everyone over age 12 living in the home), character references, a home safety assessment, first aid training, and child care training courses or workshops.	From birth to 12 years	Only 2 children or a sibling group who are not related to them
LICENSE-NOT-REQUIRED CHILD CARE These child care providers can operate legally in B.C. They are not registered or licensed and are not monitored or inspected. Unlicensed child care providers do not have to meet health or safety standards. Parents and guardians are responsible for overseeing the care and safety of their children in these care arrangements.	From birth to any age	Only two children or a sibling group who are not related to them
IN-CHILD'S-OWN-HOME CARE This unlicensed care is when parents arrange for child care at home – like a nanny or a baby-sitter. Children from other families cannot be included in this care. It is not legally required to monitor this care. No specific qualifications are required for the child care provider. Parents or guardians must decide how to screen and hire the child care provider who becomes their employee.	N/A	Children from other families cannot be included in this care.

Appendix C: Community Engagement Summary Report

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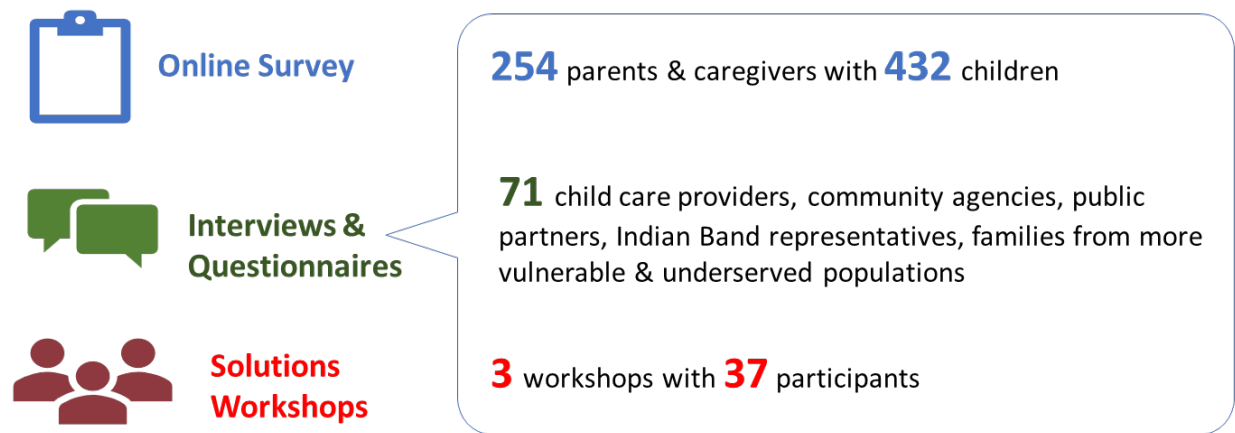
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Introduction

The South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Action Plan was deeply informed by engagement with key community members, partners, and stakeholders. This engagement work provided key information about the local needs and opportunities for child care. The process also served to build both knowledge and relationships within and across communities. The engagement activities undertaken for this project are summarized in the figure below.



This report summarizes key themes from the Parent & Caregiver Survey, Key Informant Interviews, outreach to vulnerable and underserved populations, and the Solutions Workshops. For a full list of individuals who participated in the engagement activities, please refer to the Appendix.

Parent & Caregiver Survey

To better understand the experiences and child care needs of families in the South Okanagan Similkameen region, an online survey of parents and caregivers of children aged 0 to 12 was conducted.

The survey included questions about personal and family characteristics, current and anticipated child care needs, current child care experiences, and suggested actions for improving the child care situation for families in the region.

The survey was open from September 28 to October 16, 2020 and distributed by the Regional District and partnering local governments through a joint media release, their websites, social media channels, and direct outreach to local service providers that work with children and families. The Child Care Resource & Referral program also shared the survey with child care providers, encouraging them to pass it on to their families.

Survey Responses

- The final valid sample for this survey consisted of 254 parents and caregivers providing information about the child care arrangements and needs of 432 children aged 0 to 12, or 11% of the child population.
- The number of responses by geographic planning area is as follows:
 - Summerland (36),
 - Keremeos and Electoral Areas B & G (54),
 - Princeton and Electoral Area H (31),
 - Oliver and Electoral Areas A & C (32),
 - Electoral Areas E, F, D, I (66).

Demographics

- 31% of respondents had lived in their community for more than ten years; 25% for six to ten years; and 44% for five years or less.
- 86% of respondents were born in Canada.
- 24% of respondents reported household incomes under \$50,000; 36% reported incomes between \$50,000 and \$99,999; 31% between \$100,000 and \$149,999; and 10% incomes of \$150,000 or more.
- 7% of children were reported to have a special need or disability.
- 17% of respondents were lone parents.

Overall Child Care Need

- For children not yet in kindergarten, the most common child care need was for care five days a week, full days (49%), followed by one to four days a week, full days (26%), and occasional care as needed (12%).
- For school aged children, the most common child care need was for out of school care, five days a week (47%), followed by out of school care one to four days a week (18%), occasional care as needed (16), and school professional days or breaks only (12%).

Work Profile

- In 49% of households, both parents (or the lone parent) worked full time. In 18% at least one parent was home full-time with the children. An additional 32% of households had other family work arrangements.
- About one-third of all parents worked variable schedules, beyond typical Monday to Friday daytime hours.

Current Child Care Arrangements

- The most common primary care arrangement for children under 3 was parental care (53%), followed by unlicensed care (26%) and licensed care (21%).
- For children 3 to 5 not yet in school, the most common primary care arrangement was licensed care (46%), followed by parental care (43%) and unlicensed care (11%).
- The most common primary care arrangement for school age children outside of school hours was parental care (55%), followed by licensed care (22%) and unlicensed care (22%).

Waitlists

- 25% of all children cared for by a parent or relative are currently on child care waitlists. This includes nearly half (48%) of all children under 3 who are cared for by a parent or relative.
- 54% of children with a care arrangement other than a parent or relative were previously on a waitlist. Children under 3 with a care arrangement other than a parent or relative were most likely to have previously been on a wait list (71%), followed by children 3 to 5 not yet in school (62%), and school aged children (31%)
- 73% of children who were previously on a waitlist had wait times of over 6 months, including 42% who experienced wait times of over one year. 80% of children under 3 who were previously on waitlists were on waitlists for over six months, compared with 65% of children 3 to 5 not yet in school and 75% of school aged children.

Time Spent in Current Child Care Arrangement

- 45% of children under 3 and 49% of children 3 to 5 but not yet in school attended their primary care arrangement for more than 30 hours per week.
- For school aged children, 10 to 20 hours per week was the most common average time spent in care (60%).

Reasons for Choosing Current Arrangement

- The most common reason for selecting their current care arrangement was convenience (63%), followed by reputation (31%), and first program to offer a space (29%). Many parents described their current arrangement as the only option available.

Satisfaction with Current Arrangement

- Parents using child care arrangements other than a parent or relative were asked to rate their satisfaction on four different aspects of their child's primary arrangement: location, quality, hours of operation, and cost.
- Overall, 71% of respondents were very satisfied with quality, 67% with location, 60% with hours of care, and 33% with cost.

Ease or Difficulty of Finding Child Care

- 72% of respondents reported that finding child care was somewhat (28%) or very difficult (44%).
- For children under 3, 61% reported finding child care was very difficult, compared with 43% for children 3 to 5 not yet in school and 29% for school aged children.

Child Care Preferences

- For each child, parents were asked if they would change that child's arrangements if a preferred option became available at an affordable price. Overall, 51% of all respondents answered 'yes', 30% were not sure, and 20% answered 'no'.
- The share of respondents who would change their current arrangement was highest for those currently using parental care (56% would change if they could), followed by those using some form of unlicensed care (55%).
- 36% of those currently using some form of licensed care indicated that they would change their arrangement if they could.
- Survey respondents who indicated that they would like to change their current care arrangement were asked to rank their preferences for different forms of care. 84% of respondents indicated some form of licensed care as their first choice.

Factors That Would Most Improve Current Child Care Situation

- Respondents were asked which factors would most help improve their current child care situation.
- The most common response was lower fees (64%), followed by extended hours/days of operation (50%), increased availability of part-time child care (48%), increased availability of full-time child care (36%), and a more convenient location (22%).

Key Informant Interviews and Supplementary Questionnaires

Between October 2020 and January 2021, the project team engaged with 71 key stakeholders, partners, and families from underserved or more vulnerable populations. Most of the key stakeholder and partner engagement was conducted through one-on-one interviews, with a small number of supplementary online questionnaires.

To better understand the experiences and needs of families from underserved and more vulnerable populations (e.g., lone parent families, families with children with additional support needs, etc.), the consulting team partnered with eight community non-profit agencies to create a supplementary engagement process that built on the strength of existing relationships between clients and service providers. Through this process, parents and caregivers were able to provide input through an informal interview with a service provider or by completing a brief questionnaire (either on paper or online).

For a full list of interviewees and participating agencies, please refer to the Appendix. Common themes from this engagement work are summarized below.

There is significant unmet need for child care across the region.

- While some areas are better served than others, there is significant unmet need for child care across the region.
- Infant-toddler and school age spaces are especially scarce.
- As more families have moved into the region over the past few years, demand for child care spaces has grown. Many operators report growing waitlists.
- When parents cannot access licensed child care, they may be unable to work or have no option but to rely on non-licensed child care arrangements.

Some families face additional barriers to securing child care that meets their needs.

- Children with additional support needs face many barriers to securing high-quality child care. There is need for more supports for this population.
- The region has a growing number of newcomer and immigrant families. These families may experience additional difficulties navigating the child care system.
- There are limited options for child care with extended, flexible, or non-traditional hours. This negatively impacts parents and caregivers who do shift work or work multiple jobs.
- Some parents report difficulties finding part-time child care spaces and sometimes have no option but to accept full-time spaces they do not need, with the associated full-time fees.

Operators experience challenges and barriers to maintaining or expanding the number of child care spaces available.

- Financial sustainability is an ongoing challenge for operators.
- Child care providers report that it is difficult to find suitable and affordable facility spaces.
- For those wishing to open new child care programs, navigating multiple approval processes (i.e., municipal, licensing) is challenging.

However, there have been several positive developments, locally and Provincially, to increase child care access.

- Many interviewees welcomed senior government commitments and increased funding for child care.
- School District 53 now operates a seamless before and after school program, which has significantly increased access to school aged care for Oliver.
- Child care on school sites has many advantages for families and children, including making it easy for families drop off and pick up children, including multiple children of different ages; helping children become familiar with the school environment; and offering children and families a central hub of information and services.

Affordability remains a barrier to child care access to many families.

- The Affordable Child Care Benefit has helped many families afford child care.
- However, not all families who are eligible even know that the program exists.
- Families who are not eligible for the subsidies may still struggle with high child care costs.
- Many operators report it is challenging to balance keepings fees affordable for families with financial sustainability.

Addressing staffing challenges is critical to increasing availability of high-quality child care in the region.

- Recruiting and retaining Early Childhood Educators is a major challenge.
- Limited numbers of qualified applicants and high staff turnover limit the availability of child care spaces in the region. Programs cannot expand or sometimes even operate at capacity because it is difficult to fill vacancies.
- Child care staff are generally underpaid for the work that they do.
- There are limited local ECE training options.
- Currently working child care staff face barriers to upgrading their certifications, including limited options for local training, limited options for practicum placements, and financial and logistical difficulty completing the unpaid practicum.

Strong existing partnerships are a major regional strength.

- There are many strong partnerships and collaborations throughout the region and a strong commitment to working together to address child care needs.
- There also strong relationships between not-for-profit operators and School Districts.

Solutions Workshops

Upon completion of the project research and community engagement activities, in February 2021, the project partners hosted three virtual Solutions Workshops. The Workshops were organized around the following geographic areas: 1) Summerland and Electoral Areas E, F, D, I; 2) Princeton, Keremeos, and Electoral Areas B, G, H; and 3) Oliver and Electoral Areas A and C. A total of 37 individuals participated in the workshops (please see Appendix for full list of attendees).

The Solutions Workshop allowed participants to hear key learnings and outcomes from the recently completed community engagement and profile work; to explore the current state of child care in and around the South Okanagan-Similkameen; to explore child care access targets and to discuss potential opportunities, partnerships, and actions to address child care gaps.

Some of the key themes from the workshops are summarized below.

Increasing Access

- Local governments can play a role in finding and facilitating use of their land and buildings for child care.
- Prioritize increasing child care spaces on or near school grounds, in partnership with School Districts.
- Prioritize multi-use facilities, where child care is integrated into other public spaces.
- Public partners can access Provincial capital funds to create new spaces.
- Explore more flexible and non-traditional hour services
- Targets for new spaces ranged from ensuring 30% of the children in the short term had access to spaces right up to 70% access in the long -term.

Improving Affordability

- Explore ways to ensure low income families and other underserved populations have access to child care.
- Work with child care operators to support more part-time child care spaces.
- Work together to advocate to senior levels of government for reduced parent fees.
- Ensure that families and providers are aware of the new Affordable Child Care Benefit (subsidy) program for lower income families.

Focusing on Quality

- Explore opportunities to increase local ECE training opportunities, including more local offerings dual credit programs in high schools and ways to improve support for practicums.
- Advocate to senior levels of government for increased wages and benefits for child care staff.

Strengthening Partnerships

- Provide opportunities for ongoing partnership on child care between jurisdictions across the region.
- Explore opportunities for collaboration between Indian Bands, child care providers, and municipalities to support increased access to culturally appropriate child care for Indigenous families and child care curriculum that more broadly incorporates Indigenous perspectives and knowledge.
- Strengthen partnerships and collaborations around child care planning between local governments and School Districts.
- Develop public education information about the child care needs and the Action Plan.

Appendix: List of Participants

Community Agencies	
Jen Anderson	South Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
Matthew Baran	Ooknakane Friendship Centre
Julie Ellison	Lower Similkameen Community Services Society
Ian Gerbrandt	One Sky Community Resources
Allyson Graf	YMCA
Matt Hatch	South Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
Sarah Martin	Lower Similkameen Community Services Society
Danielle Miranda	YMCA
Martina Mosna	South Okanagan Immigrant & Community Services
Jenny Pedwell	Princeton Family Services Society
Aiza Regala	South Okanagan Immigrant & Community Services
Hal Roberts	CYC/Summerland Food Bank
Debbie Scarborough	South Okanagan Women in Need Society
Marieze Tarr	Desert Sun Counselling
Cassandra Thomas	YMCA
Linda Van Alphen	Summerland Healthy Community Initiative

Public Partners	
Nicole Byrne	Interior Health
Gerald Davis	Osoyoos Recreation
Nanette Drobot	BC Housing
Andy Foster	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Doug Gorcak	School District 67
Shaune Gowe	School District 67
Kelsey Johnson	Penticton Recreation Department
Jane Kempston	School District 58
Todd Manuel	School District 67
Steve McNiven	School District 58
Lori Mullin	District of Summerland
Cody Naples	Princeton Recreation Department
Kirsten Odian	Trout Creek Elementary School
Tanya Osborne	Interior Health
Jill Pascoe	Interior Health
Carol Sheridan	Oliver Parks and Recreation Society
Bev Young	School District 53

Indian Bands	
Eliza Terbasket	Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Jackie Tallio	Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Leslie Fournier	Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Liz Bent	Penticton Indian Band

Child Care Providers/Operators	
Caitlin Alcott	One Sky Community Resources
Celina Alex	Inkameep Preschool Day Care
Karen Block	Naramata Child Development Centre
Jessica Chyzzy	Modern Day Mommy Daycare
Lynda Fairall	Summerland Child Care
Diane Gludovatz	Little Wonders Child Care & OES Child Care
Tracy Ingbritson	One Sky Community Resources
Karin Potgieter	Summerland Early Learning Centre
Melissa Ryan	One Sky Community Resources

Participating Organizations in Vulnerable/Underserved Population Engagement	
Desert Sun Counselling & Resource Centre	
Lower Similkameen Community Services	
Okanagan Boys & Girls Club	
OneSky Community Resources	
Princeton Family Services Society	
South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services	
South Okanagan Women in Need Society	
Summerland Food Bank and Resource Centre	

Solutions Workshop Participants – Summerland, Electoral Areas E, F, D, I	
Charlene Ames	OK Mini School Society
Karen Block	Naramata Playschool Society
Laurel Boothe	Trout Creek Kids Club
Jackie Bourdeaux	Penticton Regional Hospital
Lynda Fairall	Rainbow Corner Childcare
Ian Gerbrandt	One Sky Community Resources
Lori Mullin	District of Summerland
Tanya Osborne	Interior Health
Karin Potgieter	South Okanagan Montessori Society/Summerland Early Learning Centre
Augusto Romero	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Taletha Wyatt	OK Mini School Society

Solutions Workshop Participants – Princeton, Keremeos, Electoral Area B, G, H	
Caitlin Alcott	One Sky Community Resources
Mandy Chapman	Little Seeds Early Learning Centre
Jodi Chenier	
Marg Coulson	Village of Keremeos
Carly Godard	Scout Vineyard
Susan Herczku	Princeton Baptist Church
Tracy Ingbritson	One Sky Community Resources
Jane Kempston	School District 58
Lisa	Interior Health
Marion Louie	ntamtqen snm'a?m'aya?tn
Stephen McNiven	School District 58
Melissa Mennell	
Augusto Romero	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Lyle Thomas	Town of Princeton

Solutions Workshop Participants – Oliver, Electoral Areas A, C	
Nancy Aatelma	Desert Sun Counselling and Resource Centre
Celina Alex	Inkameep Preschool Day Care
Patricia Barrows	Boys and Girls Club of the Okanagan
Sarah Dynneson	Town of Osoyoos
Andy Foster	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Diane Gludovatz	South Okanagan Quality Childcare
Randy Houle	Town of Oliver
Tracy Ingbritson	One Sky Community Resources
Carrie Reiter	One Sky Community Resources
Augusto Romero	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Marieze Tarr	Desert Sun Counselling and Resource Centre
Bev Young	School District 53

Appendix D: Community Profile

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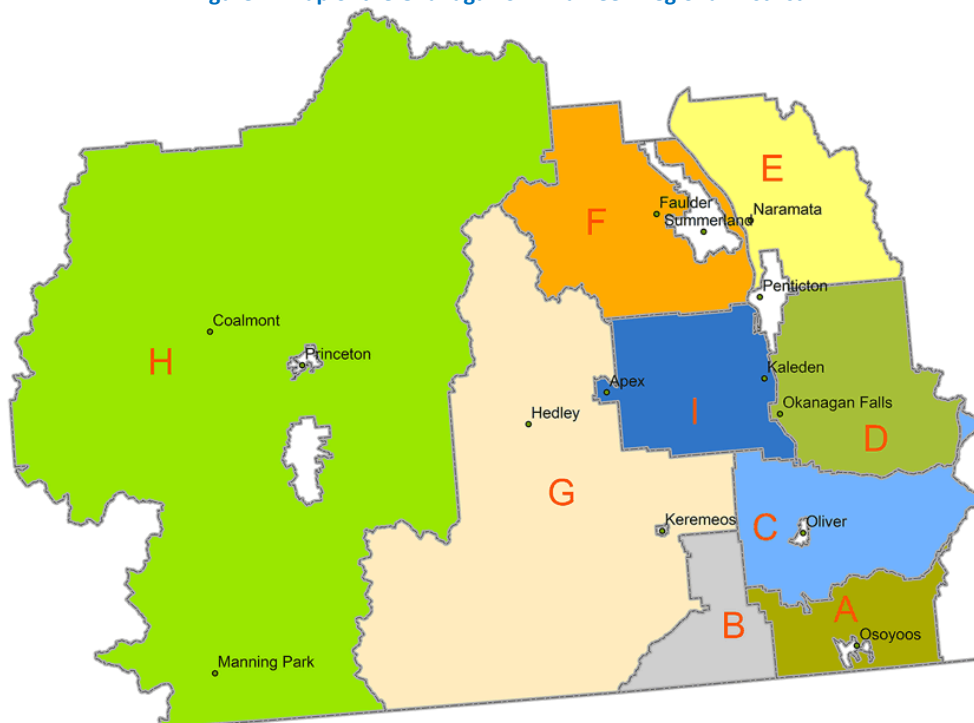
Introduction

The purpose of this Community Profile is to highlight important data about the community to inform child care planning. It includes information about the child population, socio-economic and labour force data, indicators of childhood vulnerability, and an overview of child care programs and spaces currently available in the District of Summerland, District of Oliver, Town of Princeton, Village of Keremeos, and the unincorporated electoral areas of the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District (Electoral Areas A through I)¹⁷. This Profile draws on a variety of data sources, including the 2016 Census, BC Stats, the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC, and child care information provided by Interior Health Community Care Licensing.

Geographic scope

This project's geographic scope includes the District of Summerland, District of Oliver, Town of Princeton, Village of Keremeos and the electoral areas of the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District: Electoral Area A, Electoral Area B, Electoral Area C, Electoral Area C, Electoral Area D, Electoral Area E, Electoral Area F, Electoral Area G, Electoral Area H, and Electoral Area I. There are some communities (Osoyoos, Penticton, and all First Nations reserves) which are located within the Regional District, but which were not part of the client group for this project. Data for these communities is not included in this profile. However, it is important to note that these communities are included in statistics for the entire Regional District. A map of the Regional District is provided below (**Figure 1**) for reference.

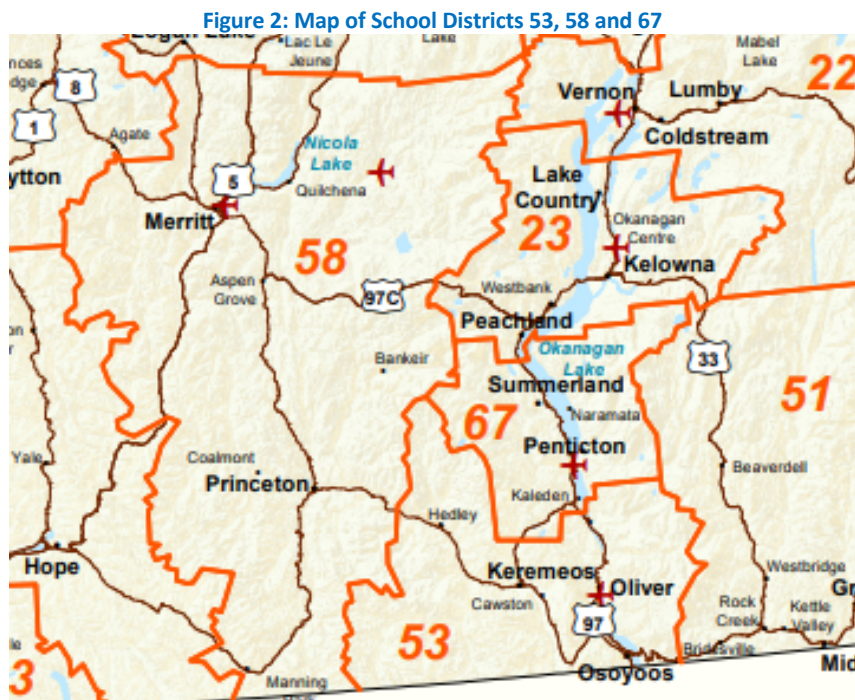
Figure 1: Map of the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District



Source: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. Electoral Area News. <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/httpwww-rdosmaps-bc-camin-bylawsfinancepostandardtermstpotermsconditions-pdf/rdos-news/electoral-area-news/>

¹⁷ Data from the 2016 Census combines Electoral Area D and Electoral Area I, as per the electoral area boundaries at the time of the Census.

This profile also incorporates some data that is only available at the School District level. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is served by three School Districts: School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen), and School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha). As shown in the map below (**Figure 2**), these School Districts also include communities beyond the geographic scope of this project.

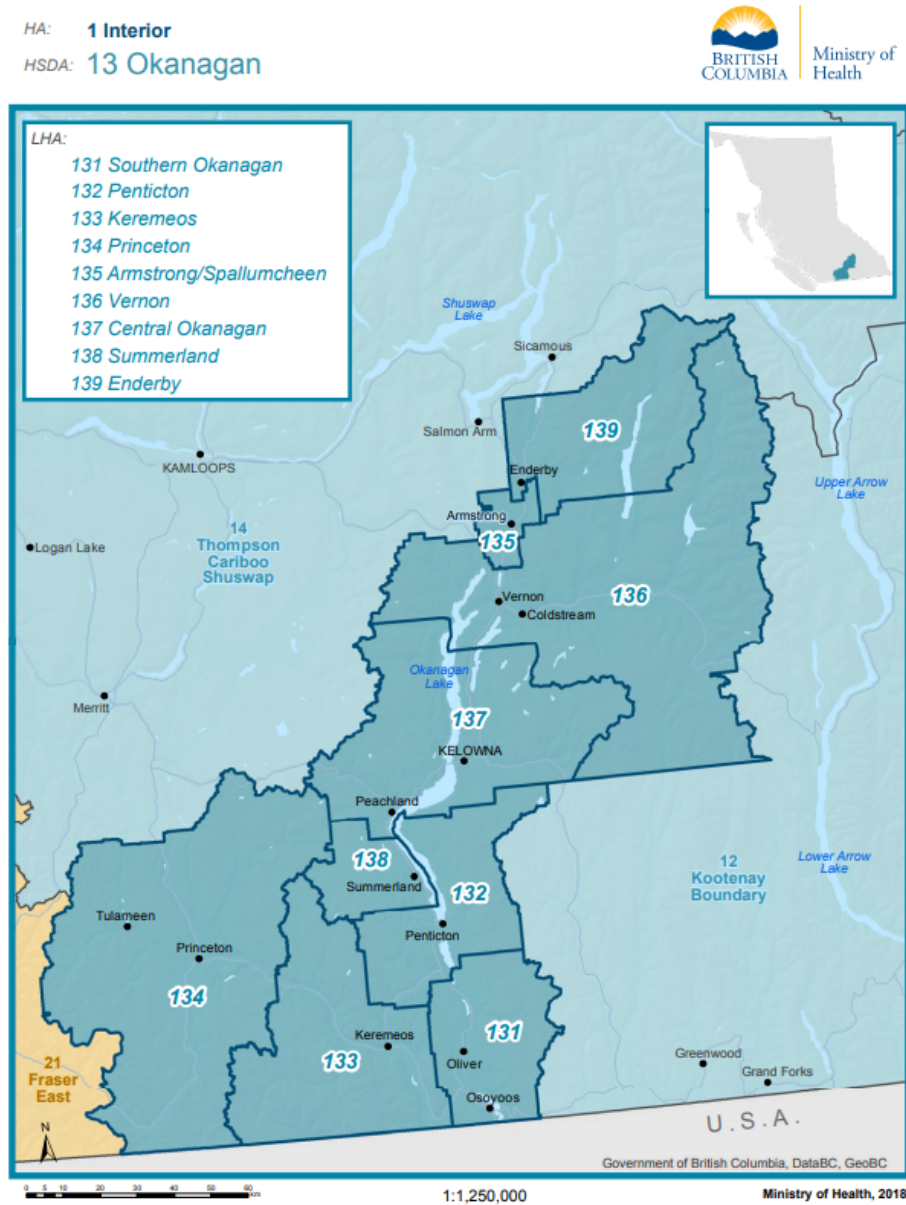


Source: BC Provincial Government. Administrative Boundaries. School District Boundaries.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/geographic/land-use/administrative-boundaries/school-district-boundaries/map-wall-school-districts.pdf>

For the purposes of population projections, the most precise geographies available were based on Local Health Areas. The Ministry of Health has five Health Authorities which are further broken down into Local Health Areas for planning and service delivery. The geographies utilized for the population projections were the South Okanagan Local Health Area, the Keremeos Local Health Area, the Princeton Local Health Area, and the Summerland Local Health Area, as well as the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District. **Figure 3** displays the locations of these local health areas.

Figure 3: Map of Local Health Area geographies



Source: BC Provincial Government. Administrative Boundaries. Health Boundaries. Okanagan Health Service Delivery Area Map. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/geographic/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries/13_okanagan.pdf

Child population

Child population is an important starting point for assessing child care need. **Figure 4** displays the number of children (0 to 12-years-old) in each jurisdiction, as well as their share of the total population. Overall, as of 2016, there were 8,145 children (0 to 12-years-old) in the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District, including 3,935 children in the jurisdictions participating this project. In each community, the share of children in the total population ranged from 7% (Electoral Area H) to 11% (Princeton).

Figure 4: Child population, 0 to 12 years, 2016 Census

	Total 0 to 12 Years	Share of Total Population
Summerland	1,190	10%
Oliver	535	11%
Princeton	320	11%
Keremeos	125	8%
Electoral Area A	130	7%
Electoral Area B	100	10%
Electoral Area C	305	9%
Electoral Areas D & I	510	9%
Electoral Area E	190	10%
Electoral Area F	225	11%
Electoral Area G	170	8%
Electoral Area H	135	7%
Total (for this project)	3,935	10%
RDOS	8,145	10%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016004.

Figure 5 shows how the child population in each jurisdiction is distributed by age group. In total, for all the participating jurisdictions, there were 1,325 children 0 to 4-years-old, accounting for about one-third of all children 0 to 12. An additional 1,600 children were 5 to 9-years-old (41%) and 1,010 were 10 to 12-years-old (26%).

Figure 5: Child population, 0 to 12 years, by age range, 2016 Census

	0 to 4 years		5 to 9 years		10 to 12 Years	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	400	34%	475	40%	315	27%
Oliver	195	36%	220	41%	120	22%
Princeton	105	33%	145	45%	70	22%
Keremeos	45	36%	50	40%	30	24%
Electoral Area A	50	39%	50	39%	30	23%
Electoral Area B	45	45%	30	30%	25	25%
Electoral Area C	100	33%	120	39%	85	28%
Electoral Areas D & I	155	30%	215	42%	140	28%
Electoral Area E	60	32%	85	45%	45	24%
Electoral Area F	65	29%	95	42%	65	29%
Electoral Area G	60	35%	60	35%	50	29%
Electoral Area H	45	33%	55	41%	35	26%
Total (for this project)	1,325	34%	1,600	41%	1,010	26%
RDOS	2,840	35%	3,300	41%	2,005	25%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016004.

Figure 6 displays the changes in the child population by age group between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. Overall, the 0 to 12 population decreased by a net 135 children in for the entire Regional District (-2%) and by a net 215 children for the participating jurisdictions (-5%).

The changes in population by age group between 2011 and 2016 for the participating jurisdictions were as follows:

- -15 decrease (-1% decrease) in the number of children 0-4 years old;
- -45 decrease (-3% increase) in the number of children 5-9 years old; and,
- -155 decrease (-13% decrease) in the number of children 10-12 years old.

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of children 0 to 12-years-old decreased significantly in Electoral Area A, Electoral Area B, Electoral Area C, Electoral Areas D & I, Electoral Area F, and Electoral Area G. The number of children increased significantly in Oliver, Princeton, and Electoral Area H. The number of children 0 to 12-years-old saw no change or very little change in Summerland, Keremeos, and Electoral Area E¹⁸.

Figure 6: Changes over the past 2 censuses (2011-2016) in child population by age group

	0 to 4 years		5 to 9 years		10 to 12 years		Total 0 to 12 years	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	30	8%	-20	-4%	-25	-7%	-15	-1%
Oliver	15	8%	40	22%	-25	-17%	30	6%
Princeton	-25	-19%	50	53%	0	0%	25	9%
Keremeos	10	29%	15	43%	-5	-14%	20	19%
Electoral Area A	5	11%	-40	-44%	-20	-40%	-55	-30%
Electoral Area B	-15	-25%	-25	-46%	-20	-44%	-60	-38%
Electoral Area C	-5	-5%	-20	-14%	-10	-11%	-35	-10%
Electoral Areas D & I	-40	-21%	-10	-4%	-5	-3%	-55	-10%
Electoral Area E	0	0%	15	21%	-20	-31%	-5	-3%
Electoral Area F	0	0%	-30	-24%	-10	-13%	-40	-15%
Electoral Area G	-10	-14%	-35	-37%	-15	-23%	-60	-26%
Electoral Area H	20	80%	15	38%	0	0%	35	35%
Total (for this project)	-15	-1%	-45	-3%	-155	-13%	-215	-5%
RDOS	-75	-3%	140	4%	-200	-9%	-135	-2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016041.

**Some of the jurisdictions had very small (i.e., less than 50 children) populations in certain age groups, so large percentage changes in these age groups over time may be due to random rounding more than actual change in some cases. For these areas, the changes in the 0-12 year old population may be a more accurate indicator than the changes in the individual age groups*

¹⁸ These jurisdictions had increases or decreases of 20 children or less between 2011, which could be explained either by actual change or by the results of random rounding used to protect confidentiality in both Censuses.

Population Projections

Figure 7 shows the projected changes to the 0 to 12-year-old population from 2020 to 2030, based on estimates created by BC Stats, for South Okanagan, Princeton, Summerland, and Keremeos Local Health Areas, as well as the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District. These population projections are based on trends in fertility, mortality, and net migration¹⁹.

For the Regional District overall, the 0 to 12-year-old population is projected to increase from 8,312 children in 2020 to 8,532 children in 2025, before decreasing to 8,486 children in 2030. This is a projected net increase of +174 children (+2%) across the Regional District between 2020 and 2030. Between 2020 and 2030, the Southern Okanagan Local Health Area (+77 children, 5% increase), Summerland Local Health Area (+73 children, +6% increase) and Keremeos Local Health Area (+37 children, +8% increase) are projected to have increases in their 0 to 12-year-old populations. The Princeton Local Health Area's child population is projected to change very little between 2020 and 2030.

Figure 7: Projected changes to the 0 to 12-year-old population from 2020 to 2030.

	2020	2025	2030	# change 2020 – 2030	% change 2020 – 2030	Average Annual Change (2020- 2030)	Average Annual Growth Rate (2020- 2030) (%)
Southern Okanagan LHA	1,578	1,704	1,655	+77	+5%	+8	+0.5%
Princeton LHA	473	483	469	-4	-1%	0	-0.1%
Summerland LHA	1,147	1,224	1,220	+73	+6%	+7	+0.6%
Keremeos LHA	480	509	517	+37	+8%	+4	+0.8%
RDOS	8,312	8,532	8,486	+174	+2%	+17	+0.2%

Source: BC Stats Population Projections.

¹⁹ For more information about the methodology BC Stats uses to create population projections, please refer to: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/people_population_projections_highlights.pdf.

Children in Lone Parent Families and Couple Families

Figure 8 displays the number of children (0 to 14-years-old) in lone parent families and couple families in the participating jurisdictions, based on the 2016 Census data. Out of the 4,695 children (0 to 14 years) in the participating jurisdictions, 19% were in lone parent families (890 children) and 79% (3,695 children) were in couple parent families. The percentage of children (0 to 14-year-olds) in lone parent families ranged from 9% of children in Electoral Area F to 29% of children in Keremeos.

Figure 8: Children (0-14 years old) living in lone parent families and couple families, 2016 Census

	Children living in lone parent families		Children living in couple families		Total children ²⁰
	#	%	#	%	
Summerland	230	16%	1,165	82%	1,425
Oliver	165	27%	435	71%	610
Princeton	90	25%	265	73%	365
Keremeos	40	29%	105	75%	140
Electoral Area A	25	17%	130	87%	150
Electoral Area B	20	15%	105	81%	130
Electoral Area C	40	11%	320	85%	375
Electoral Area D & I	115	18%	510	81%	630
Electoral Area E	50	23%	155	72%	215
Electoral Area F	25	9%	250	86%	290
Electoral Area G	60	27%	145	66%	220
Electoral Area H	30	21%	110	76%	145
Total (for this project)	890	19%	3,695	79%	4,695
RDOS	2,280	24%	7,040	74%	9,530

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

²⁰ Some children may live in arrangements other than couple families or lone parent families, such as living with grandparents or in foster care. Therefore, the total number of children in lone parent families and children in couple families may not add up to the total number of children in any living arrangement.

Median Family Income

Figure 9 shows median before-tax income in 2015 by family type in the participating jurisdictions. In 2015, the median before-tax income for families with children 0 to 5-years-old in the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District was \$74,770 for all families, \$87,595 for couple families, and \$28,576 for lone parent families. In 2015, the median before-tax family income for families with children 0 to 17-years-old in the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District was \$79,186 for all families, \$99,119 for couple families and \$34,859 for lone parent families. The median before-tax family income for all families with children 0 to 17-years-old varied widely by community, ranging from \$52,224 in Electoral Area G to \$125,952 in Electoral Area F.

Figure 9: Median income (before-tax) by family type, 2015

	Families with children 0 to 17-years-old			Families with children 0 to 5-years-old		
	Total families	Couple families	Lone parent families	Total families	Couple families	Lone parent families
Summerland	\$92,160	\$103,782	\$38,080	\$89,259	\$96,171	N/A
Oliver	\$69,888	\$82,773	\$38,144	\$73,728	\$79,104	N/A
Princeton	\$96,768	\$120,064	\$33,408	\$96,512	\$114,091	N/A
Keremeos	\$79,616	\$95,488	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area A	\$71,936	\$81,024	N/A	\$67,072	\$72,960	N/A
Electoral Area B	\$64,128	\$72,448	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area C	\$74,240	\$84,992	N/A	\$63,360	\$75,008	N/A
Electoral Area D & I	\$102,144	\$113,536	\$41,984	\$92,331	\$106,752	N/A
Electoral Area E	\$90,368	\$114,091	\$36,480	\$93,440	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area F	\$125,952	\$131,072	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area G	\$52,224	\$66,816	N/A	\$39,040	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area H	\$100,608	\$118,016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
RDOS	\$79,186	\$99,119	\$34,859	\$74,770	\$87,595	\$28,576

Source: Statistics Canada. Census Family Total Income Groups (22) in Constant (2015) Dollars, Census Family Structure (7), Family Size of Census Family (4), Ages of Census Family Members (18), Number of Earners in the Census Family (5) for Census Families, 2006, 2016 Census. Downloaded from Community Data Program:

<https://communitydata.ca/content/census-family-total-income-groups-22-constant-2015-dollars-census-family-structure-7-family>

*Note: Due to accuracy challenges related to the impacts of random rounding on results by Statistics Canada, as well as small sample sizes in areas with small populations in sub-groups, results in areas with populations of a sub-group numbering less than 50 have been suppressed.

Low-Income Measure

Figure 10 displays the number of children in low-income families based on the low-income measure (after tax) in the participating jurisdictions in 2015²¹. Overall, there were 2,285 children (0 to 17-years-old) in low income families in the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District, which is 20% of all children under 18. There were 695 children (0-5 years old) in low income families in the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District, which is 21% of all children under 6. The child poverty rates (for all children under 18) varied from 9% in Electoral Area F to 36% in Electoral Area G.

Figure 10: Number and percentage of children in low income families, based on the low-income measure after tax, 2015

	Children 0 to 17 Years		Children 0 to 5 Years	
	#	%	#	%
Summerland	310	18%	90	19%
Oliver	145	20%	45	18%
Princeton	90	21%	30	21%
Keremeos	45	26%	10	20%
Electoral Area A	45	23%	15	23%
Electoral Area B	55	31%	10	18%
Electoral Area C	95	20%	30	25%
Electoral Area D & I	85	11%	25	13%
Electoral Area E	55	20%	20	24%
Electoral Area F	35	9%	0	0%
Electoral Area G	100	36%	35	47%
Electoral Area H	45	24%	5	10%
RDOS	2,285	20%	695	21%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016127.

*Note: The 0-5 year-old populations are much smaller than 0-17 year old populations and so their poverty rates are much more likely to be impacted by random rounding effects. Therefore, 0-17 year old child poverty rates for most geographic areas (except for areas with large populations such as Summerland and the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District) are likely more accurate than 0-5 year old child poverty rates.

²¹ The low-income measure is 50% of the median household income for all Canadian households, adjusted for household size. The low-income measure thresholds used for 2016 Census data can be found at: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/tab/t4_2-eng.cfm.

Housing

Figure 11 displays the median monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings and rented dwellings in the participating jurisdictions in 2016²². Overall, the median monthly shelter cost in the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District was \$658 per month for owned dwellings and \$904 per month for rented dwellings. The median monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings varied from \$346 per month in Electoral Area G to \$1,086 per month in Electoral Area F. The median monthly shelter costs for rented dwellings varied from \$706 per month in Electoral Area B to \$1,134 per month in Electoral Area E.

Figure 11: Median monthly shelter costs, 2016

	Median monthly shelter cost for owned dwellings	Median monthly shelter cost for rented dwellings
Summerland	\$633	\$1,012
Oliver	\$613	\$875
Princeton	\$743	\$900
Keremeos	\$525	\$748
Electoral Area A	\$527	\$1,105
Electoral Area B	\$543	\$706
Electoral Area C	\$382	\$881
Electoral Area D & I	\$699	\$1,026
Electoral Area E	\$770	\$1,134
Electoral Area F	\$1,086	\$1,076
Electoral Area G	\$346	\$804
Electoral Area H	\$619	\$882
RDOS	\$658	\$904

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

²² Statistics Canada defines shelter cost as the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own or rent their dwelling. Shelter costs for owner households include, where applicable, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, along with the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services. For renter households, shelter costs include, where applicable, the rent and the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services.

Languages Spoken Most Often at Home

Figure 12 displays the most common languages spoken at home in the participating jurisdictions in 2016. In the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District, the most common language was English (76,095 speakers), followed by Punjabi (1,795 speakers), French (425 speakers), German (315 speakers), and Portuguese (290 speakers). In all of the participating communities, English was the most commonly spoken language, with Punjabi being the second most common language in many communities.

Figure 12: Top ten languages (only including languages spoken by 25 or more people), 2016

	Languages (number of speakers)
Summerland	English (10,820), Punjabi (95), German (75), French (45)
Oliver	English (4,210), Punjabi (290), Portuguese (45), Spanish (25)
Princeton	English (2,685)
Keremeos	English (1,385)
Electoral Area A	English (1,470), Punjabi (200), Portuguese (30)
Electoral Area B	English (875), Punjabi (105)
Electoral Area C	English (2,890), Punjabi (405), French (45), Portuguese (30), Spanish (25)
Electoral Area D & I	English (5,690), German (25)
Electoral Area E	English (1,795)
Electoral Area F	English (1,960)
Electoral Area G	English (2,070), Punjabi (95)
Electoral Area H	English (1,905)
RDOS	English (76,095), Punjabi (1,795), French (425), German (315), Portuguese (290), Spanish (140), Tagalog (120), Korean (70), Afrikaans (65), Dutch (65), Cantonese (65)

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016070

Indigenous Population

According to Statistics Canada, Aboriginal identity includes persons who are First Nations, Metis, Inuk and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians, and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band²³. **Figure 13** shows the number and percentage of residents who identify as Aboriginal. There were 2,365 Aboriginal residents in the participating communities in 2016 or 6% of the total population. Summerland had the largest number of Aboriginal residents (605 Aboriginal Identity residents). The percentage of Aboriginal Identity residents in the participating jurisdictions varied from 3% in Electoral Area A to 11% in Electoral Area B. In addition to the participating jurisdictions, the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District also has many First Nations reserves not shown here.

Figure 13: Indigenous population, 2016

	Number Aboriginal Identity	Percentage Aboriginal Identity
Summerland	605	6%
Oliver	155	3%
Princeton	280	10%
Keremeos	50	3%
Electoral Area A	50	3%
Electoral Area B	115	11%
Electoral Area C	170	5%
Electoral Area D & I	340	6%
Electoral Area E	105	6%
Electoral Area F	105	5%
Electoral Area G	195	9%
Electoral Area H	195	10%
Total (for this project)	2,365	6%
RDOS	6,145	8%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

²³ For definition of Aboriginal identity, see: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/pop001-eng.cfm>

Immigration

Figure 14 displays the number and share of residents by generation status for the participating jurisdictions in 2016. Overall, the highest percentage of residents were third generation or more (25,015 residents, 62%), followed by second generation (8,725 residents, 22%), and first generation (6,480 residents, 16%). The largest number of first generation residents were in Summerland (1,540 first generation residents), with the percentage of first generation residents varying from 8% in Princeton to 31% in Electoral Area A.

Figure 14: Residents – breakdown by generation status, 2016

	First generation		Second generation		Third generation or more	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	1,540	14%	2,390	22%	7,160	65%
Oliver	865	19%	1,110	24%	2,705	58%
Princeton	220	8%	515	19%	2,025	73%
Keremeos	220	15%	340	24%	890	62%
Electoral Area A	580	31%	385	21%	895	48%
Electoral Area B	215	21%	235	23%	570	55%
Electoral Area C	900	26%	850	24%	1,750	50%
Electoral Area D & I	680	12%	1,225	21%	3,915	67%
Electoral Area E	390	21%	390	21%	1,115	59%
Electoral Area F	280	14%	430	21%	1,305	65%
Electoral Area G	355	16%	560	25%	1,320	59%
Electoral Area H	235	12%	295	16%	1,365	72%
Total (for this project)	6,480	16%	8,725	22%	25,015	62%
RDOS	12,770	16%	17,470	22%	50,205	62%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

Figure 15 shows the number and share of residents by immigration status. In all participating jurisdictions in 2016, 6,045 residents were immigrants and 150 were non-PR residents, together accounting for 15% of the population. The percentage of residents who were immigrants varied from 7% in Princeton to 30% in Electoral Area A.

Figure 15: Residents - broken down by immigration status, 2016

	Non-immigrant		Immigrant		Non-PR	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	9,640	87%	1,400	13%	50	0.5%
Oliver	3,835	82%	840	18%	10	0.2%
Princeton	2,545	92%	205	7%	0	0.0%
Keremeos	1,240	86%	195	14%	15	1.0%
Electoral Area A	1,295	70%	555	30%	10	0.5%
Electoral Area B	825	81%	200	20%	0	0.0%
Electoral Area C	2,625	75%	830	24%	45	1.3%
Electoral Area D & I	5,175	89%	645	11%	10	0.2%
Electoral Area E	1,525	81%	360	19%	0	0.0%
Electoral Area F	1,755	87%	260	13%	0	0.0%
Electoral Area G	1,885	85%	335	15%	0	0.0%
Electoral Area H	1,665	88%	220	12%	10	0.5%
Total (for this project)	34,010	85%	6,045	15%	150	0.4%
RDOS	68,195	85%	11,930	15%	320	0.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

Employment

Figure 16 displays the population (15+ years old) by work activity in the participating jurisdictions in 2015. Among residents in the participating jurisdictions in 2015:

- 14,400 residents did not work (41% of residents 15+ years old);
- 12,795 residents worked part year and/or part time (36% of residents 15+ years old); and,
- 8,325 residents worked full year, full time (23% of residents 15+ years old).

The percentage of residents 15+ years old who did not work in 2015 ranged from 30% in Electoral Area F to 55% in Keremeos. The percentage of residents 15+ years old who worked part year and/or part time varied from 30% in Electoral Area G to 46% in Electoral Area B. The percentage of residents 15+ years old who worked full year, full time varied from 14% in Keremeos to 30% in Electoral Area F.

Figure 16: Percent of population (15+ years old) and number of individuals by work activity in 2015

	Worked full year, full time		Worked part year and/or part time		Did not work	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	2,440	25%	3,530	37%	3,700	38%
Oliver	835	21%	1,370	34%	1,875	46%
Princeton	600	25%	725	31%	1,030	44%
Keremeos	185	14%	410	32%	710	55%
Electoral Area A	340	20%	690	41%	640	38%
Electoral Area B	145	16%	405	46%	340	38%
Electoral Area C	660	21%	1,280	41%	1,205	38%
Electoral Area D & I	1,340	26%	1,795	34%	2,080	40%
Electoral Area E	415	25%	695	42%	570	34%
Electoral Area F	510	30%	680	40%	515	30%
Electoral Area G	395	20%	605	30%	1,025	51%
Electoral Area H	460	26%	610	34%	710	40%
Total (for this project)	8,325	23%	12,795	36%	14,400	41%
RDOS	17,000	24%	24,380	34%	29,530	42%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

We can generally assume that in most couple families with children with one or no earners and in most lone parent families with no earners that a parent is staying at home. Families where all parents are working are more likely to be using some form of licensed or unlicensed child care arrangement. **Figure 17** displays the number of earners for families with at least one child 0 to 5-years-old by family type in the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District in 2015²⁴. The majority of couple families with children 0 to 5-years-old had two or more earners (76% of couple families), followed by one earner (23% of couple families) and no earners (2% of couple families). The majority of lone parent families with children 0 to 5-years-old had one earner (72% of lone parent families), followed by no earners (25% of lone parent families) and two or more earners (3% of lone parent families).

Figure 17: Number and percentage of families with at least one child 0 to 5 years, by family type, by number of earners in 2015, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

	No earners		One earner		Two or more earners	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Couple families	40	2%	455	23%	1,530	76%
Lone parent families	135	25%	395	72%	15	3%

Source: Statistics Canada. Census Family Total Income Groups (22) in Constant (2015) Dollars, Census Family Structure (7), Family Size of Census Family (4), Ages of Census Family Members (18), Number of Earners in the Census Family (5) for Census Families, 2006, 2016 Census. Downloaded from Community Data Program:

<https://communitydata.ca/content/census-family-total-income-groups-22-constant-2015-dollars-census-family-structure-7-family>

Figure 18 displays the number of earners for families with at least one child 0 to 17 years old by family type. The majority of couple families with children 0-17 years old in the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District had two or more earners (83% of couple families), followed by one earner (15% of couple families) and no earners (2% of couple families). The percentage of couple families with children 0-17 years old in the participating jurisdictions with two or more earners ranged from 74% in Princeton to 92% in Electoral Area F. The majority of lone parent families with children 0-17 years old in the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District had one earner (65% of lone parent families), followed by two or more earners (21% of lone parent families) and no earners (14% of lone parent families).

²⁴ This data is not available for the participating jurisdictions because of the small numbers of families in each sub-category.

Figure 18: Number and percentage of families with at least one child 0 to 17 years, by family type, by number of earners in 2015

	Couple Parent Families			Lone Parent Families		
	No earners	One earner	Two or more earners	No earners	One earner	Two or more earners
Summerland	20 (3%)	110 (14%)	635 (83%)	20 (10%)	130 (65%)	55 (28%)
Oliver	5 (2%)	35 (13%)	240 (86%)	15 (10%)	90 (62%)	35 (24%)
Princeton	0 (0%)	45 (26%)	130 (74%)	15 (21%)	50 (71%)	15 (21%)
Keremeos	0 (0%)	15 (25%)	50 (83%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area A	5 (6%)	10 (11%)	80 (89%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area B	5 (6%)	15 (19%)	60 (75%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area C	5 (2%)	30 (14%)	185 (86%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area D & I	5 (1%)	55 (15%)	315 (86%)	15 (18%)	55 (65%)	15 (18%)
Electoral Area E	5 (5%)	15 (14%)	90 (86%)	5 (10%)	35 (70%)	15 (30%)
Electoral Area F	5 (3%)	15 (8%)	165 (92%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area G	5 (5%)	10 (10%)	90 (86%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electoral Area H	5 (6%)	20 (25%)	60 (75%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
RDOS	80 (2%)	735 (15%)	4,000 (83%)	265 (14%)	1,240 (65%)	405 (21%)

Source: Statistics Canada. Census Family Total Income Groups (22) in Constant (2015) Dollars, Census Family Structure (7), Family Size of Census Family (4), Ages of Census Family Members (18), Number of Earners in the Census Family (5) for Census Families, 2006, 2016 Census. Downloaded from Community Data Program:

<https://communitydata.ca/content/census-family-total-income-groups-22-constant-2015-dollars-census-family-structure-7-family>

*Note: Due to accuracy challenges related to the impacts of random rounding on results by Statistics Canada, as well as small sample sizes in areas with small populations in sub-groups, results in areas with populations of a sub-group numbering less than 50 have been suppressed. This also means totals don't always add up to 100%.

Figure 19 displays the commuting destination for workers in the participating jurisdictions who commuted in 2016. In the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District, the largest number of workers commuted within their own jurisdictions (58%), followed by other jurisdictions within the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District (35%) and jurisdictions outside of the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District (7%). However, for the participating jurisdictions, workers most commonly commuted to a different community within the Regional District (57%), followed by commuting within their jurisdiction (33%). 10% commuted outside the Regional District for work.

There was a major difference in commuting patterns between commuters living in incorporated municipalities and electoral areas, with commuters in incorporated municipalities being much more likely to commute within their jurisdiction than commuters within electoral areas: the percentage of municipal resident commuters who commuted within their own jurisdiction ranged from 42% - 91%, whereas the percentage of electoral area resident commuters who commuted within their own jurisdiction ranged from 0% - 35%.

Figure 19: Workers by commute destination, 2016

	Commute within jurisdiction		Commute to different community within Regional District		Commute Outside Regional District	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	1,540	42%	1,670	46%	450	12%
Oliver	835	56%	530	36%	135	9%
Princeton	940	91%	30	3%	55	5%
Keremeos	150	46%	160	49%	30	9%
Electoral Area A	30	6%	430	88%	25	5%
Electoral Area B	75	35%	130	61%	10	5%
Electoral Area C	130	14%	725	77%	95	10%
Electoral Area D & I	260	13%	1,565	79%	160	8%
Electoral Area E	110	18%	445	74%	30	5%
Electoral Area F	0	0%	635	91%	65	9%
Electoral Area G	80	14%	425	77%	60	11%
Electoral Area H	40	6%	525	75%	125	18%
Total (for this project)	4,190	33%	7,270	57%	1,240	10%
RDOS	15,370	58%	9,225	35%	1,975	7%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

Figure 20 displays the commute duration for workers in the participating jurisdictions who commuted in 2016. In the participating jurisdictions, 44% of commuters had a commute time of under 15 minutes; 22% had a commute of over 30 minutes. Princeton residents who commuted were the most likely to have a short (less than 15 minute) commute (67% of Princeton resident commuters had a less than 15 minute commute), while Electoral Area E residents who commuted were the least likely (24% of Electoral Area E resident commuters had a less than 15 minute commute). Electoral Area H residents who commuted were the most likely to have a very long (60 minute or more) commute (10% of Electoral Area H resident commuters had a 60 minute or more commute), while Electoral Area B residents who commuted were the least likely (0% of Electoral Area B had a 60 minute or more commute).

Figure 20: Workers by commute duration, 2016

	Less than 15 min	15 to 29 min	30 to 44 min	45 to 59 min	60+ min
Summerland	1,755 (41%)	1,745 (40%)	370 (9%)	235 (5%)	235 (5%)
Oliver	1,080 (63%)	360 (21%)	185 (11%)	80 (5%)	30 (2%)
Princeton	745 (67%)	260 (23%)	45 (4%)	10 (1%)	60 (5%)
Keremeos	200 (48%)	40 (10%)	75 (18%)	65 (16%)	40 (10%)
Electoral Area A	370 (62%)	135 (23%)	45 (8%)	25 (4%)	25 (4%)
Electoral Area B	145 (57%)	40 (16%)	25 (10%)	40 (16%)	0 (0%)
Electoral Area C	500 (43%)	335 (29%)	195 (17%)	50 (4%)	105 (9%)
Electoral Area D & I	600 (25%)	1,325 (55%)	310 (13%)	50 (2%)	130 (5%)
Electoral Area E	165 (24%)	405 (58%)	80 (11%)	40 (6%)	10 (1%)
Electoral Area F	410 (47%)	245 (28%)	130 (15%)	35 (4%)	60 (7%)
Electoral Area G	305 (46%)	100 (15%)	145 (22%)	70 (11%)	40 (6%)
Electoral Area H	355 (45%)	225 (28%)	70 (9%)	65 (8%)	80 (10%)
Total (for this project)	6,630 (44%)	5,215 (35%)	1,675 (11%)	765 (5%)	815 (5%)
RDOS	16,885 (54%)	8,785 (28%)	2,820 (9%)	1,205 (4%)	1,415 (5%)

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

Residential Mobility

Figure 21 displays the percentage of residents in each of the jurisdictions who had moved to that jurisdiction within the past year or past five years as of 2016. Overall, in the participating jurisdictions, 8% of residents had moved to the community in the past year (3,045 residents) and 23% had moved to their community in the past five years (9,120 residents). The share of residents who had moved to their community within the past five years ranged from 14% in Electoral Area F to 27% in Electoral Area D. The share of residents who had moved to their community within the past year ranged from 5% in Keremeos to 12% in Electoral Area G.

Figure 21: Residents who moved to the jurisdiction within the past year and within the past 5 years, 2016

	Moved from outside the jurisdiction in the past year (1+ year old population only)		Moved from outside the jurisdiction in the past 5 years (5+ year old population only)	
	#	%	#	%
Summerland	725	7%	2,530	24%
Oliver	350	8%	1,170	26%
Princeton	175	6%	590	22%
Keremeos	70	5%	365	26%
Electoral Area A	115	6%	315	18%
Electoral Area B	70	7%	200	21%
Electoral Area C	280	8%	740	22%
Electoral Area D & I	570	10%	1,500	27%
Electoral Area E	175	9%	430	23%
Electoral Area F	110	6%	280	14%
Electoral Area G	275	12%	575	26%
Electoral Area H	130	7%	425	23%
Total (for this project)	3,045	8%	9,120	23%
RDOS	6,520	8%	18,620	24%

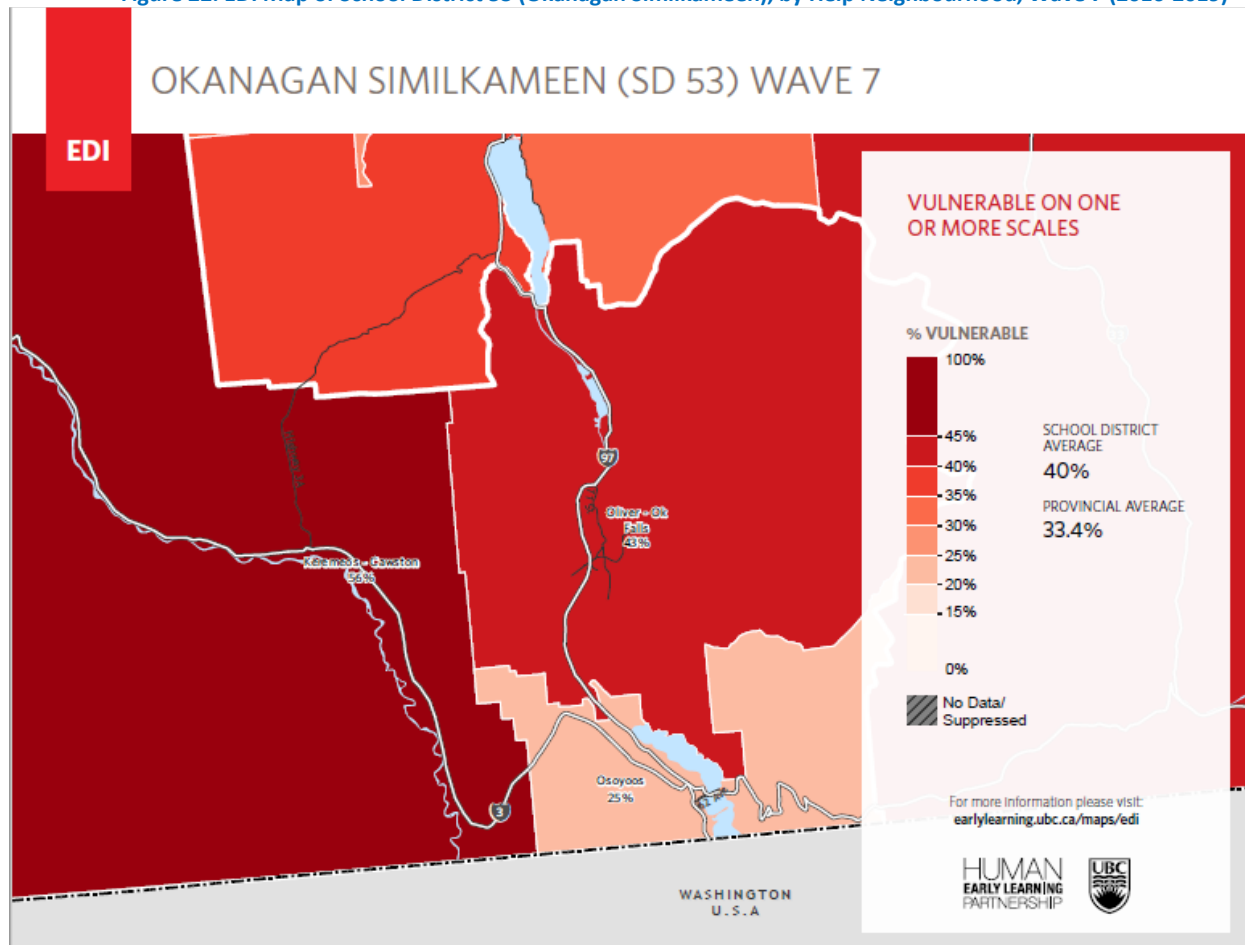
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001.

EDI (Early Development Instrument) for School Districts 53, 58, 67

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is used to assess childhood vulnerability by surveying kindergarten children around the province. Vulnerable children are defined as those who, without additional support and care, are more likely to experience challenges in their school years and beyond. EDI is measured along five scales: Physical Health & Well-Being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language & Cognitive Development, and Communication Skills & General Knowledge. A complete description of the EDI can be found at <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/data/>.

This section examines the EDI results in School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen) and School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha) through maps (**Figure 22**, **Figure 23** and **Figure 24**) and a table (**Figure 25**). During Wave 7 (2016-2019), the share of children who were vulnerable on one or more EDI scale was 40% in School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), 29% in School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen), and 34% in School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha). The Provincial average was 33%.

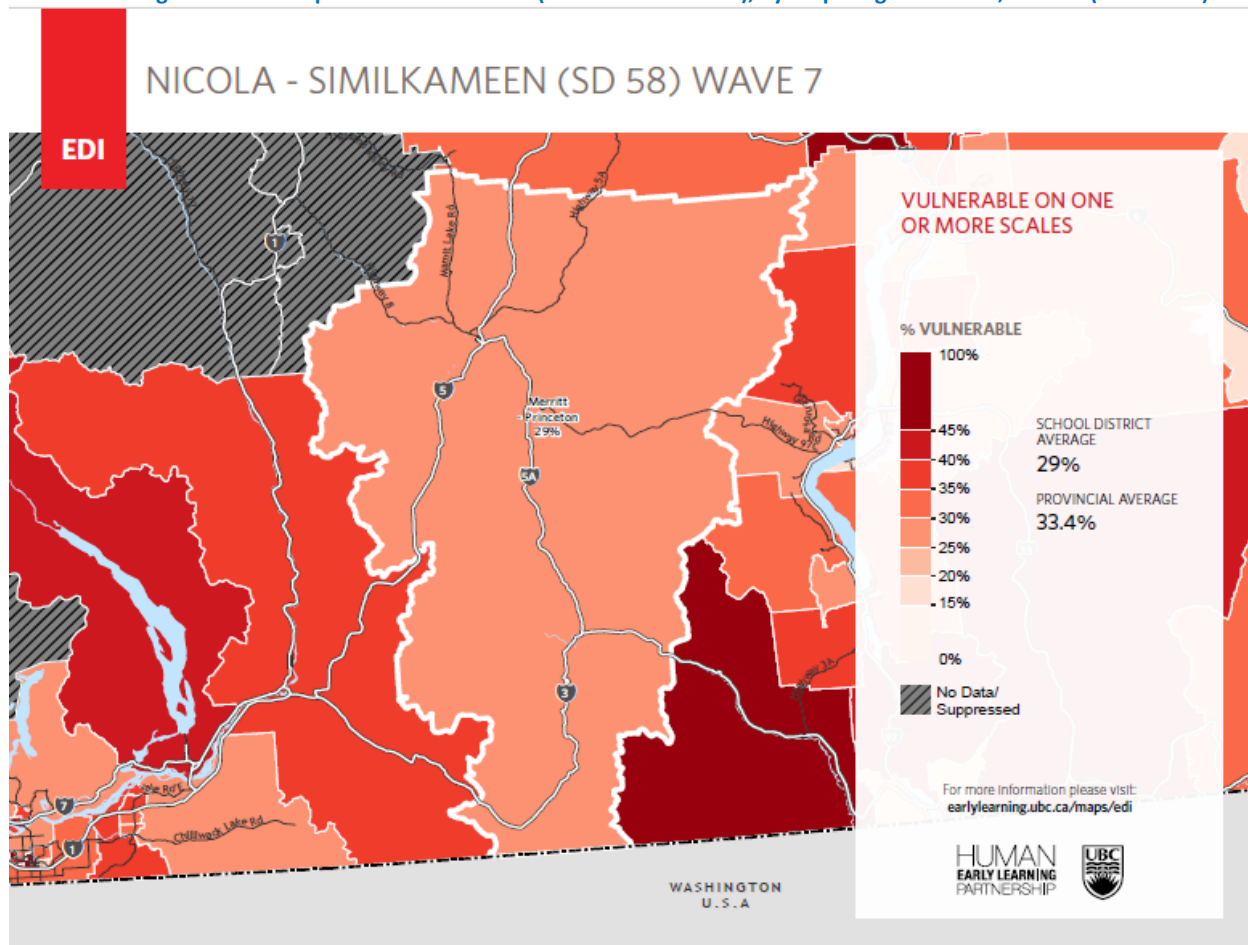
Figure 22: EDI Map of School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), by Help Neighbourhood, Wave 7 (2016-2019)



Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). EDI (Early Development Instrument). Website. School District 53. Wave 7 Community Profile.

http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi_w7_communityprofiles/edi_w7_communityprofile_sd_53.pdf

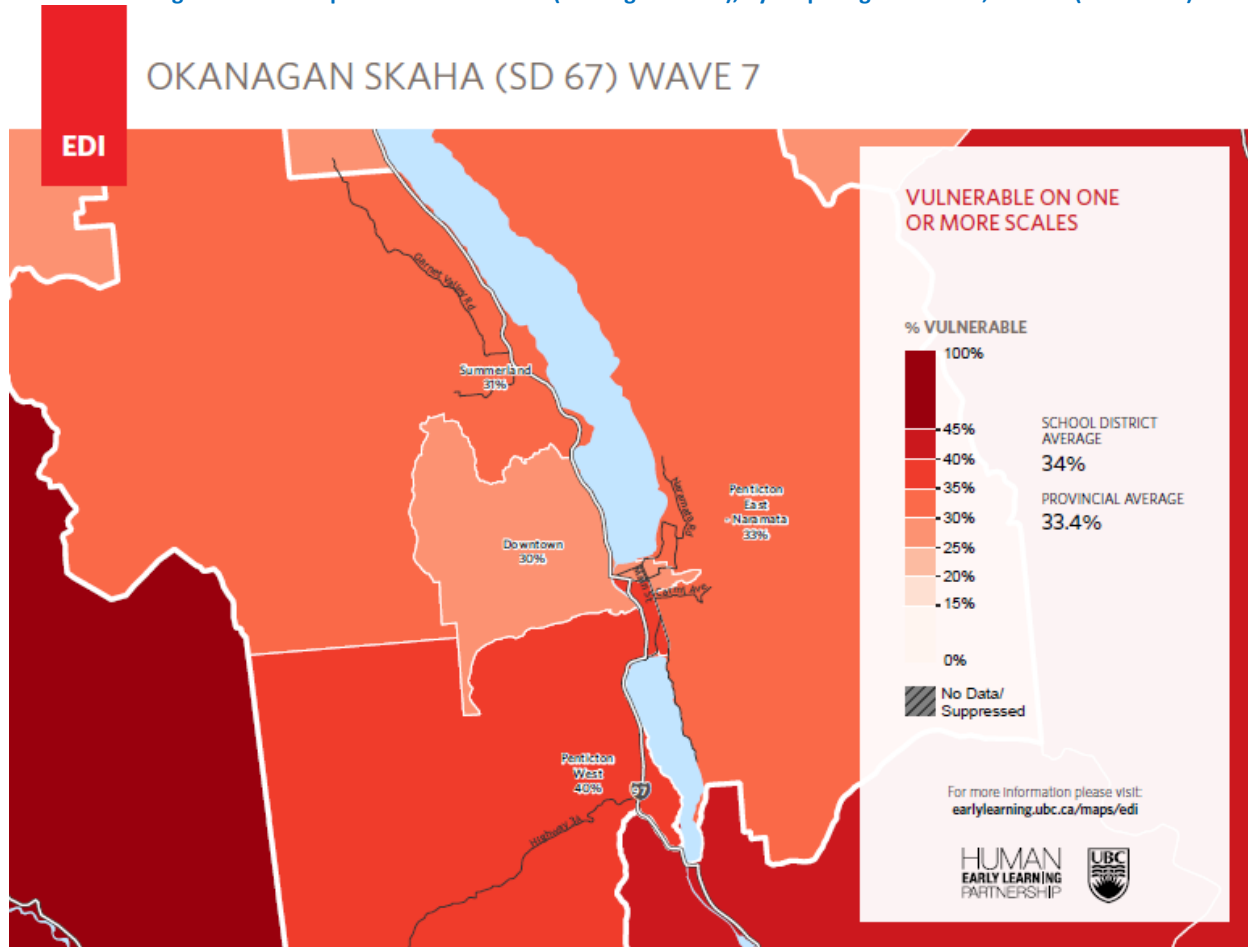
Figure 23: EDI Map of School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen), by Help Neighbourhood, Wave 7 (2016-2019)



Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). EDI (Early Development Instrument). Website. School District 58. Wave 7 Community Profile.

http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi_w7_communityprofiles/edi_w7_communityprofile_sd_58.pdf

Figure 24: EDI Map of School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha), by Help Neighbourhood, Wave 7 (2016-2019)



Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). EDI (Early Development Instrument). Website. School District 67. Wave 7 Community Profile.

http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi_w7_communityprofiles/edi_w7_communityprofile_sd_67.pdf

Figure 25: EDI (by HELP Neighbourhood), School Districts 53, 58, 67, Wave 7 (2016-2019)

HELP Neighbourhood	Total Number of Children	Number of Vulnerable Children	Vulnerable on One or More Scales (%)
School District 53 – Okanagan Similkameen			
Keremeos - Cawston	54	30	56%
Oliver - OK Falls	179	76	43%
Osoyoos	83	21	25%
School District 53	316	127	40%
School District 58 – Nicola-Similkameen			
Merritt-Princeton	280	80	29%
School District 58	280	80	29%
School District 67 – Okanagan Skaha			
Downtown	162	49	30%
Penticton East - Naramata	220	73	33%
Penticton West	160	64	40%
Summerland	160	50	31%
School District 67	702	236	34%

Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). EDI (Early Development Instrument). Website. School District 53, School District 58, School District 67. Wave 7 Community Profiles.

Middle Years Development Instrument

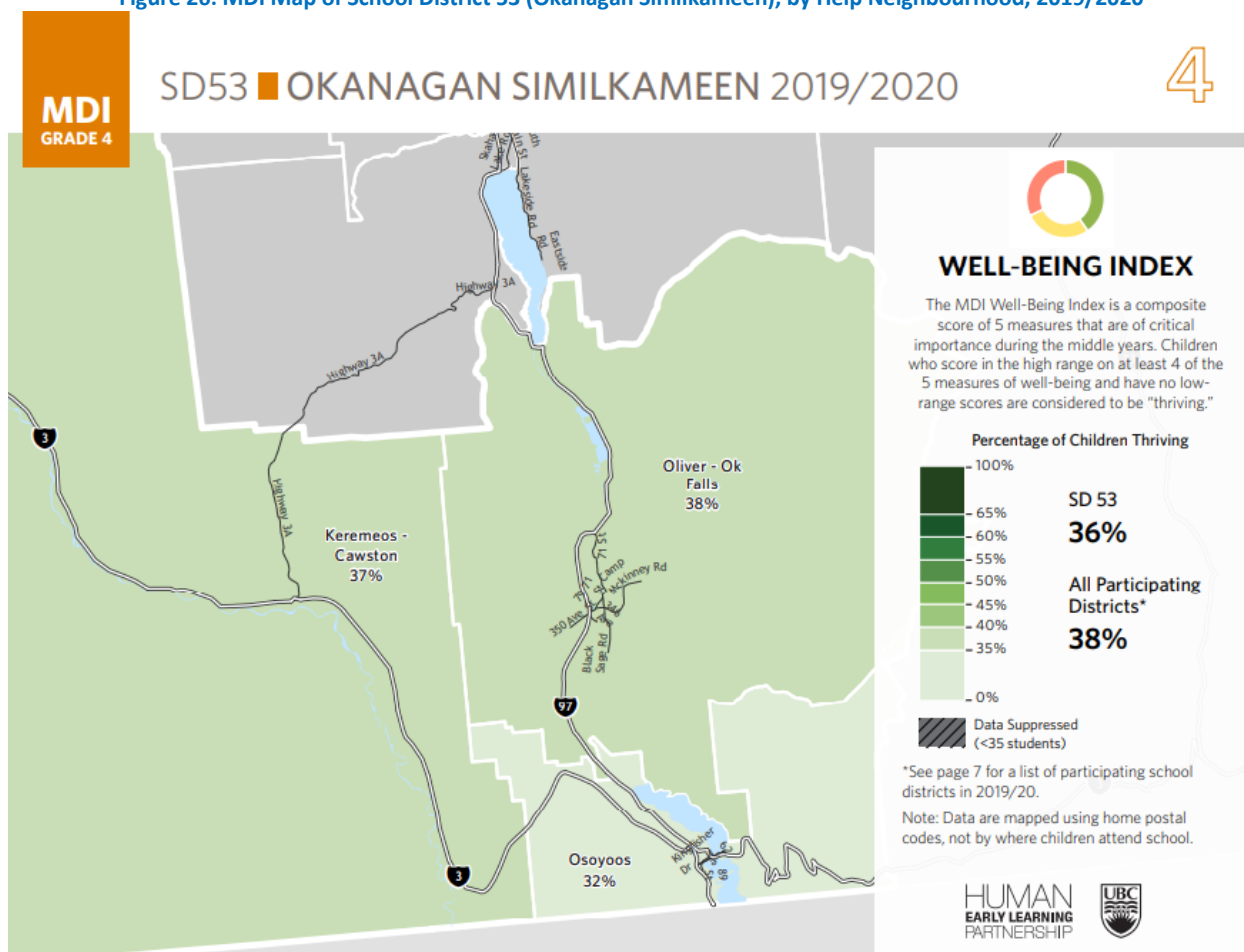
The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a survey of children in Grades 4 and 7 developed by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC to measure children's social-emotional health and well-being. The MDI results are summarized in two indices: the Well-Being Index and the Asset Index.

The MDI Well-Being Index combines measures of Optimism, Happiness, Self-Esteem, Absence of Sadness, and General Health to provide a holistic summary of children's mental and physical health. Index scores are reported by three categories: high well-being or thriving, medium well-being, and low well-being. A complete description of the MDI Well-Being Index can be found at <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/md/>.

This section examines the MDI results for grade 4 students in School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen) and School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha) through maps (**Figure 26**, **Figure 27** and **Figure 28**) and a table (**Figure 29**). The MDI results for School Districts 53 and 67 were from the 2019/2020 school year, whereas the most recent MDI results for School District 58 were from the 2015/2016 school year.

In 2019/2020, in School District 53, 36% of grade 4 students were thriving, 29% had medium well-being and 35% had low well-being. In 2015/2016, in School District 58, 41% of grade 4 students were thriving, while 24% had medium well-being and 35% had low well-being. In 2019/2020, in School District 67, 42% of grade 4 students were thriving, while 27% had medium well-being and 31% had low well-being. The Provincial average was 38%.

Figure 26: MDI Map of School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), by Help Neighbourhood, 2019/2020



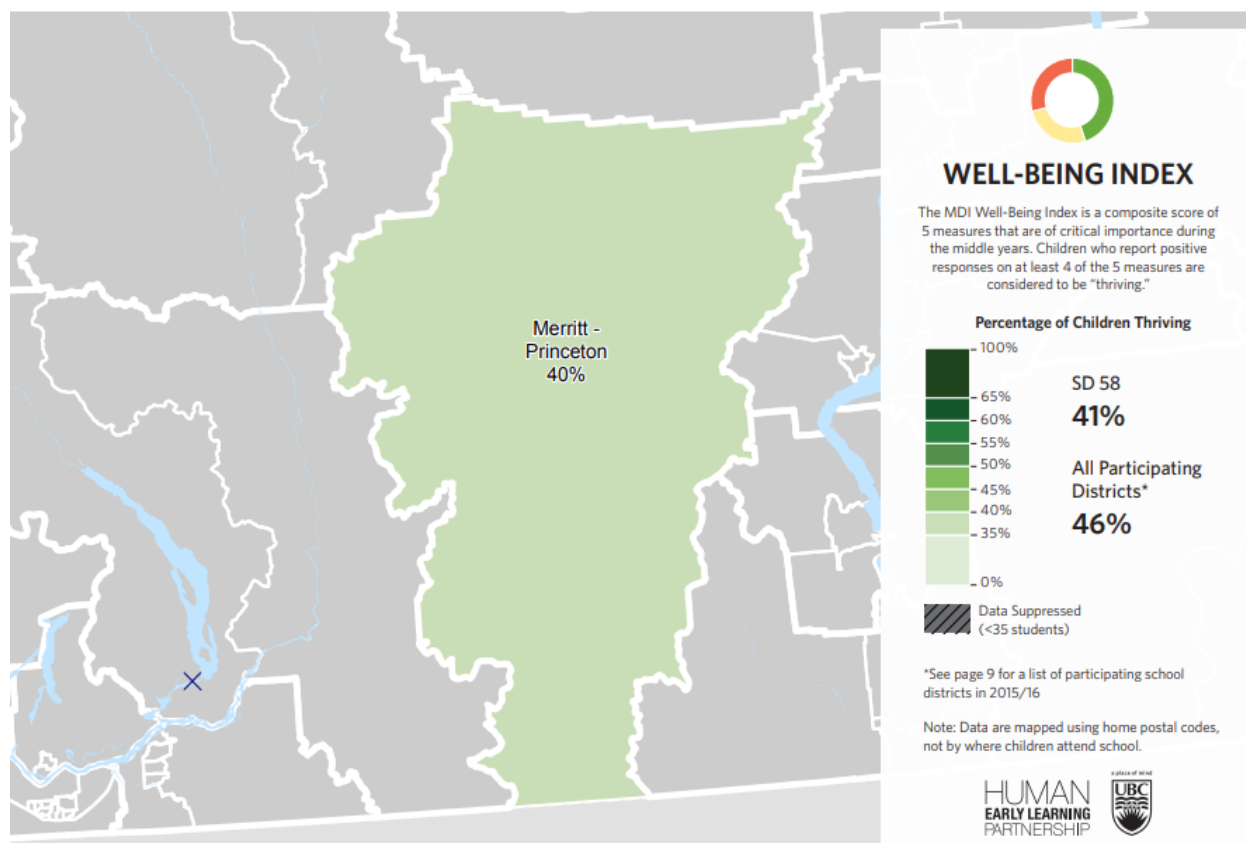
Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument). Website. School District 53. 2019/2020 Community Profile. <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/mdi/g4/mdi-sdcommunityreport-2019-20-sd53-g4-en-v200526.pdf>

Figure 27: MDI Map of School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen), by Help Neighbourhood, 2015/2016



NICOLA - SIMILKAMEEN (SD 58) 2015/2016

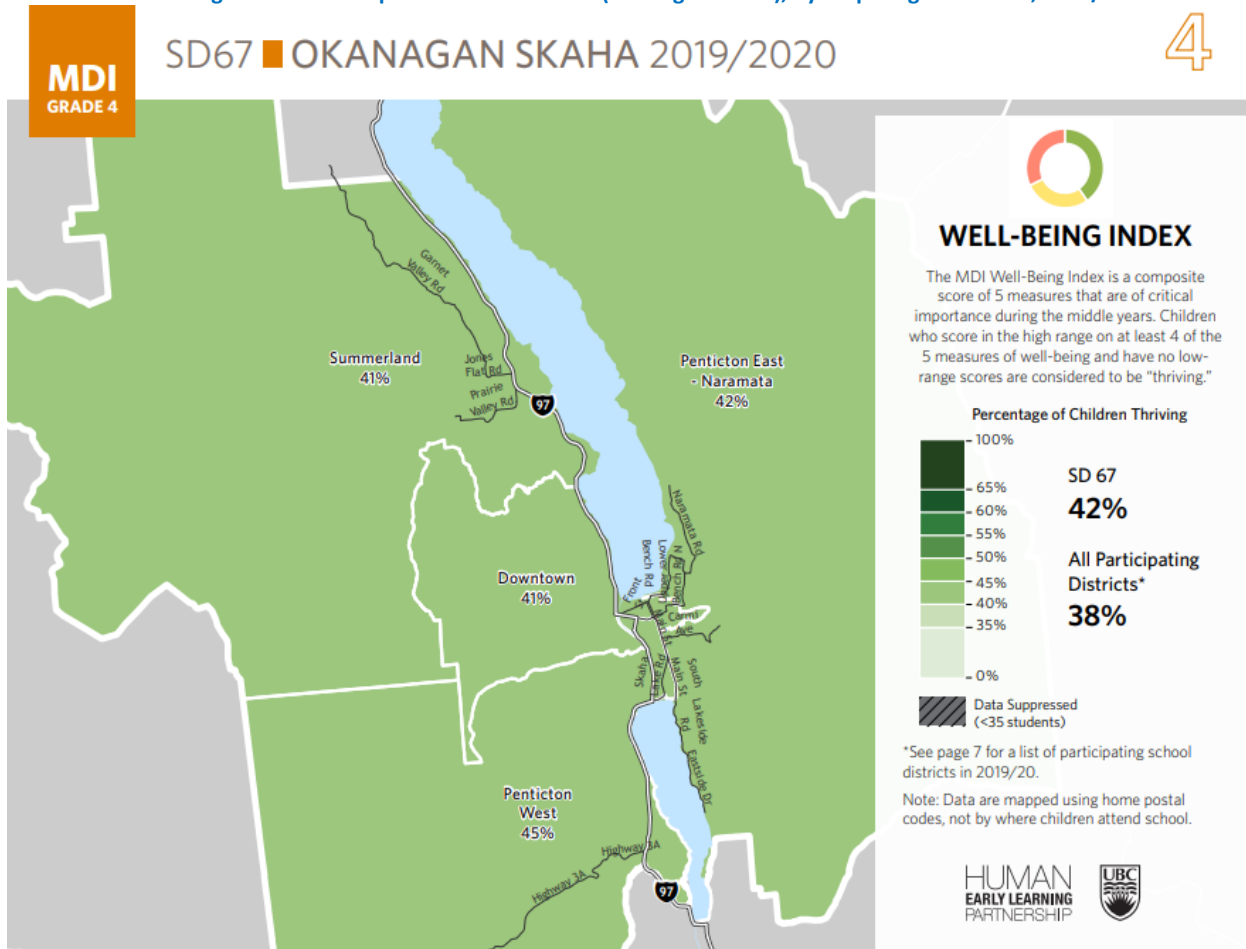
4



Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument). Website. School District 58. 2015/2016 Community Profile.

http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/mapsets/MDI/2016/mdi-4_sd_and_community_report_-_sd58_nicola-similkameen.pdf

Figure 28: MDI Map of School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha), by Help Neighbourhood, 2019/2020



Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument). Website. School District 67. 2019/2020 Community Profile. <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/mdi/g4/mdi-sdcommunityreport-2019-20-sd67-g4-en-v200526.pdf>

Figure 29: MDI (by HELP Neighbourhood), School Districts, 2019/2020 Data for School District 53 and 67, 2015/2016 data for School District 58

Neighbourhood	Total Number of Children	Thriving (%)	Medium to High Well-Being (%)	Low Well-Being (%)
School District 53 – Okanagan Similkameen				
Keremeos - Cawston	35	37%	31%	31%
Oliver - OK Falls	52	38%	25%	38%
Osoyoos	40	32%	32%	37%
School District 53	126	36%	29%	35%
School District 58 – Nicola Similkameen				
Merritt-Princeton	123	41%	24%	35%
School District 58	123	41%	24%	35%
School District 67 – Okanagan Skaha				
Downtown	69	41%	38%	21%
Penticton East - Naramata	105	42%	23%	35%
Penticton West	90	45%	22%	33%
Summerland	78	41%	30%	30%
School District 67	347	42%	27%	31%

Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument). Website. School District 53 (2019/20), School District 58 (2015/16), School District 67 (2019/20). Community Profiles.

Special Needs

Figure 30 displays the percentage of elementary school students in each School District that had special needs in the 2019/20 school year. In School District 53 in 2019/2020, there were 181 elementary school students with special needs (14% of all elementary school students). In School District 58, there were 132 elementary school students with special needs (12% of all elementary school students). In School District 67, there were 223 elementary school students with special needs (10% of all elementary school students).

Figure 30: Children who had special needs, School District 53, 58, 67 elementary schools, 2019/2020

School District	Number with special needs	Percentage with special needs
School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)	181	14%
School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen)	132	12%
School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha)	223	10%

Source: BC Government. Open Data Catalogue - Student Enrollment and FTE by Grade.

The Infant Development Program (IDP) and the Aboriginal Infant Development Programs (AIDP) are programs for children birth to 3 years who have a diagnosed disability or are at risk of having a developmental delay. Services are delivered in the home. Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) are programs for children, infant through school age, who require extra support in the child care setting they attend. Services are primarily delivered in the child care programs. The number of children served and on the wait lists for these programs in the Region are shown below.

Figure 31: Children using and waitlisted for IDP, AIDP, SCD, and ASCD, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Program	Number of Children Served		Number of Children on Wait List	
Infant Development Program ²⁵	55			
Aboriginal Infant Development Program				
	5 and under (not yet in school)	School Age	5 and under (not yet in school)	School Age
Supported Child Development ²⁶	10		29	
Aboriginal Supported Child Development				

*Sources: OneSky Community Resources, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Okanagan.

²⁵ This excludes Osoyoos and Penticton, and includes children in Summerland, Kaleden, Okanagan Falls, and Oliver.

²⁶ The communities covered here include Summerland, Naramata, Oliver, Kaleden, and Princeton.

Child Care Spaces

The following tables show the number of group child care spaces by license type and total licensed child care spaces relative to child population by age range for each jurisdiction. Child population numbers may vary slightly from the child population numbers earlier in this profile due to random rounding by Statistics Canada for different age groups.

Figure 32 displays the child care spaces per child age group in **Summerland**. Overall, there were 19 child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12. There were no group (birth to 36 months) spaces in Summerland. There were 33 group (30 months to school age) space for every 100 children in that age group and 15 group (school age) spaces for every 100 school age children.

Figure 32: Child care spaces by type (2020) versus child population by age group (2016), Summerland

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	0	0-2-year olds	230	0
Group (30 months to school age)	67	3-4-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	205	33
Group (school age)	113	6-12-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	750	15
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	40	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	220	Total 0-12-year olds	1,185	19

Source: Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data, 2016 Census for child population.

Figure 33 displays the child care spaces per child age group in **Oliver**. Overall, there were 60 child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12. There were 20 group (birth to 36 months) spaces for every 100 children under 3, 95 group (30 months to school age) spaces for every 100 children in this age group, and 42 group (school age) spaces for every 100 school age children.

Figure 33: Child care spaces by type (2020) versus child population by age group (2016), Oliver

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	24	0-2-year olds	120	20
Group (30 months to school age)	100	3-4-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	105	95
Group (school age)	132	6-12-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	315	42
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	70	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	326	Total 0-12-year olds	540	60

Source: Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data, 2016 Census for child population.

Figure 34 displays the child care spaces per child age group in **Princeton**. Overall, there were 18 child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12. There were 12 group (birth to 36 months) spaces for every 100 children under 3, 25 group (30 months to school age) spaces for every 100 children in this age group, and 9 group (school age) spaces for every 100 school age children.

Figure 34: Child care spaces by type (2020) versus child population by age group (2016), Princeton

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	8	0-2-year olds	65	12
Group (30 months to school age)	16	3-4-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	65	25
Group (school age)	18	6-12-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	195	9
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	15	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	57	Total 0-12-year olds	325	18

Source: Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data, 2016 Census for child population.

Figure 35 displays the child care spaces per child age group in **Keremeos**. Overall, there were 34 child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12. However, there are no infant-toddler or school age spaces in Keremeos. There were 76 group (30 months to school age) spaces for every 100 children in this age group.

Figure 35: Child care spaces by type (2020) versus child population by age group (2016), Keremeos

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	0	0-2-year olds	30	0
Group (30 months to school age)	17	3-4-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	22.5	76
Group (school age)	0	6-12-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	72.5	0
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	25	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	42	Total 0-12-year olds	125	34

Source: Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data, 2016 Census for child population.

Child care coverage for the unincorporated electoral areas varies widely. There are no licensed child care spaces in **Electoral Areas A, B, C, G, or H**. **Figure 36** shows the number of children by age group in each of these electoral areas.

Figure 36: Child population by age group (2016) for unincorporated areas of RDOS with no licensed child care

Jurisdiction	0 to 2 years	3 to 4 years and half of all 5-year-olds	6 to 12 years and half of all 5-year-olds	Total 0 to 12 years
Electoral Area A	30	27.5	87.5	145
Electoral Area B	30	22.5	52.5	105
Electoral Area C	60	55	195	310
Electoral Area F	35	35	155	225
Electoral Area G	40	25	105	170
Electoral Area H	25	27.5	87.5	140

Source: 2016 Census for child population.

Figure 37 displays the child care spaces per child age group in **Electoral Area D & I**. Overall, there were 16 child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12. However, there are no infant-toddler or group (30 months to school age) spaces in Electoral Areas D & I. There were 16 group (school age) spaces for every 100 school age children.

Figure 37: Child care spaces by type (2020) versus child population by age group (2016), Electoral Areas D & I

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	0	0-2-year olds	80	0
Group (30 months to school age)	0	3-4-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	92.5	0
Group (school age)	53	6-12-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	342.5	16
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	29	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	82	Total 0-12-year olds	515	16

Source: Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data, 2016 Census for child population.

Figure 38 displays the child care spaces per child age group in **Electoral Area E**. Overall, there were 21 child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12. There were no group (birth to 36 months) spaces in Electoral Area E. There were 53 group (30 months to school age) space for every 100 children in that age group and 16 group (school age) spaces for every 100 school age children.

Figure 38: Child care spaces by type (2020) versus child population by age group (2016), Electoral Area E

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	0	0-2-year olds	30	0
Group (30 months to school age)	20	3-4-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	37.5	53
Group (school age)	20	6-12-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	122.5	16
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	0	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	40	Total 0-12-year olds	190	21

Source: Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data, 2016 Census for child population.

Figure 39 displays the child care spaces per child age group for the participating jurisdictions of the **Okanagan Similkameen Regional District** (not including Penticton, Osoyoos and First Nations geographies). Overall, there were 20 child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 to 12. There were 31 group (30 months to school age) spaces for every 100 children in that age group, but only 14 group (school age) spaces for every 100 school age children and only 4 group (birth to 36 months) spaces for every 100 children under 3.

Figure 39: Child care spaces by type (2020) versus child population by age group (2016), RDOS participating jurisdictions (not including Penticton, Osoyoos and First Nations geographies)

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	32	0-2-year olds	775	4
Group (30 months to school age)	220	3-4-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	720	31
Group (school age)	336	6-12-year olds and half of all 5-year olds	2,480	14
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	179	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	767	Total 0-12-year olds	3,975	20

Source: Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data, 2016 Census for child population.

For ease of comparison, **Figure 40** summarizes the number of spaces per 100 children for each type of care and age range. For reference, the province overall has 18 child care spaces for every 100 children and Canada has 27.

Figure 40: Summary of Child Care Spaces per 100 Children by Age Group

	Infant-Toddler	Preschooler Age	School Age	Total
Summerland	0	33	15	19
Oliver	20	95	42	60
Princeton	12	25	9	18
Keremeos	0	76	0	34
Electoral Area A	0	0	0	0
Electoral Area B	0	0	0	0
Electoral Area C	0	0	0	0
Electoral Areas D & I	0	0	16	16
Electoral Area E	0	53	16	21
Electoral Area F	0	0	0	0
Electoral Area G	0	0	0	0
Electoral Area H	0	0	0	0
Total (for this project)*	4	31	14	20

*Osoyoos, Penticton and First Nations geographies were not part of this child care analysis project; therefore, they were excluded in the child care spaces analysis.

Child Care Auspice

A summary of the number of spaces and programs offered by service type and auspice is shown below. **Figure 41** displays the **number of spaces** by service type. Overall, in the participating jurisdictions, 6% of spaces were family or in-home multi-age, 50% were for-profit, 36% were non-profit, and 8% were public sector or Indigenous government run.

Figure 41: Child care spaces by service type and auspice

	Family and in-home multi-age		Group and multi-age: For-profit		Group and multi-age: Non-profit		Public Sector or Indigenous Govt	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	22	10%	129	59%	69	31%	0	0%
Oliver	7	2%	143	44%	112	34%	64	20%
Princeton	0	0%	42	74%	15	26%	0	0%
Keremeos	0	0%	34	81%	8	19%	0	0%
Electoral Area D & I	14	17%	38	46%	30	37%	0	0%
Electoral Area E	0	0%	0	0%	40	100%	0	0%
Total (for this project)*	43	6%	386	50%	274	36%	64	8%

Source: UBCM/MCFD child care inventory, Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data.

*Osoyoos, Penticton and First Nations geographies were not part of this child care analysis project; therefore, they were excluded in the child care spaces analysis.

Figure 42 displays the **number of child care programs** by service type. Overall, in the participating jurisdictions, 15% of programs were family or in-home multi-age, 40% were for-profit, 35% were non-profit, and 10% were public sector or Indigenous government run.

Figure 42: Child care programs by service type and auspice

	Family and in-home multi-age		Group and multi-age: For-profit		Group and multi-age: Non-profit		Public Sector or Indigenous Govt	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Summerland	3	25%	6	50%	3	25%	0	0%
Oliver	1	7%	4	29%	5	36%	4	29%
Princeton	0	0%	3	75%	1	25%	0	0%
Keremeos	0	0%	2	67%	1	33%	0	0%
Electoral Area D & I	2	40%	1	20%	2	40%	0	0%
Electoral Area E	0	0%	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%
Total (for this project)*	6	15%	16	40%	14	35%	4	10%

Source: UBCM/MCFD child care inventory, Interior Health Licensing, CCR&R data.

*Osoyoos, Penticton and First Nations geographies were not part of this child care analysis project; therefore, they were excluded in the child care spaces analysis.

Elementary Schools and Licensed Child Care

Figure 43 displays the child care provision at public elementary school sites within School District 53 (except Osoyoos schools). Four out of the five elementary schools in this area had child care on site, with a total of 202 child care spaces provided on these sites. Most of these spaces were before/after school spaces (107 spaces), followed by preschool spaces (55 spaces), group (3-5 year old) spaces (32 spaces), multi-age child care spaces (8 spaces) and group (under 36 months) spaces (0 spaces).

Figure 43: Public elementary schools within School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) (excluding Osoyoos schools), with K-7 school enrollment in 2019/20 and licensed capacity by child care program type

School Name	Jurisdiction	Students	Group under 36 months spaces	Group 3-5 years spaces	Preschool spaces	Before / After School spaces	Multi-Age Child Care Spaces	Total spaces
Okanagan Falls Elementary	Electoral Area D	77	0	0	15	15	0	30
Oliver Elementary	Oliver	328	0	0	20	52	0	72
Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary	Oliver	242	0	32	20	40	0	92
Cawston Primary School	Electoral Area B	156	0	0	0	0	0	0
Similkameen Elem-Secondary	Keremeos	117	0	0	0	0	8	8
Totals		920	0	32	55	107	8	202

Source: BC Government. Open Data Catalogue - Student Enrollment and FTE by Grade, UBCM/MCFD child care inventory, Okanagan-Similkameen School District website for school locations

Figure 44 displays the child care provision at public elementary school sites within School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen School District) (except Merritt schools). Neither of the two elementary schools in this area had child care on site.

Figure 44: Public elementary schools within School District 58 (Nicola Similkameen) excluding Merritt schools, with K-7 school enrollment in 2019/20 and licensed capacity by child care program type

School Name	Jurisdiction	School enrollment	Group under 36 months spaces	Group 3 -5 years spaces	Preschool spaces	Before / After School spaces	Multi-Age Child Care Spaces	Total spaces
Vermilion Forks Elementary	Princeton	153	0	0	0	0	0	0
John Allison Elementary	Princeton	129	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals		282	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: BC Government. Open Data Catalogue - Student Enrollment and FTE by Grade, UBCM/MCFD child care inventory

Figure 45 displays the child care provision at public elementary school sites within School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha School District) (except Penticton schools). Three out of the four elementary schools in this area had child care on site, with a total of 121 child care spaces provided on these sites. Most of these spaces were before/after school spaces (101 spaces), followed by group (3-5 years old) spaces (20 spaces).

Figure 45: Public elementary schools within School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha) excluding Penticton schools, with K-7 school enrollment in 2019/20 and licensed capacity by child care program type

School Name	Jurisdiction	School enrollment	Group under 36 months spaces	Group 3 -5 years spaces	Preschool spaces	Before / After School spaces	Multi-Age Child Care Spaces	Total spaces
Naramata Elementary	Electoral Area E	93	0	20	0	20	0	40
Kaleden Elementary	Electoral Area D	99	0	0	0	38	0	38
Trout Creek Elementary	Summerland	170	0	0	0	43	0	43
Giant's Head Elementary	Summerland	381	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals		743	0	20	0	101	0	121

Source: BC Government. Open Data Catalogue - Student Enrollment and FTE by Grade, UBCM/MCFD child care inventory