

Whose Jurisdiction is Child Care?

Education and child care fall primarily under provincial and territorial jurisdiction.

The provinces and territories each have their own programs of regulated child care, complete with their own Acts and legislation.

Federal Government:



Transfers funds to provincial and territorial governments to fund their early childhood learning and childcare programs.

Provincial & Territorial Governments:



Regulate standards, licensing and monitoring.



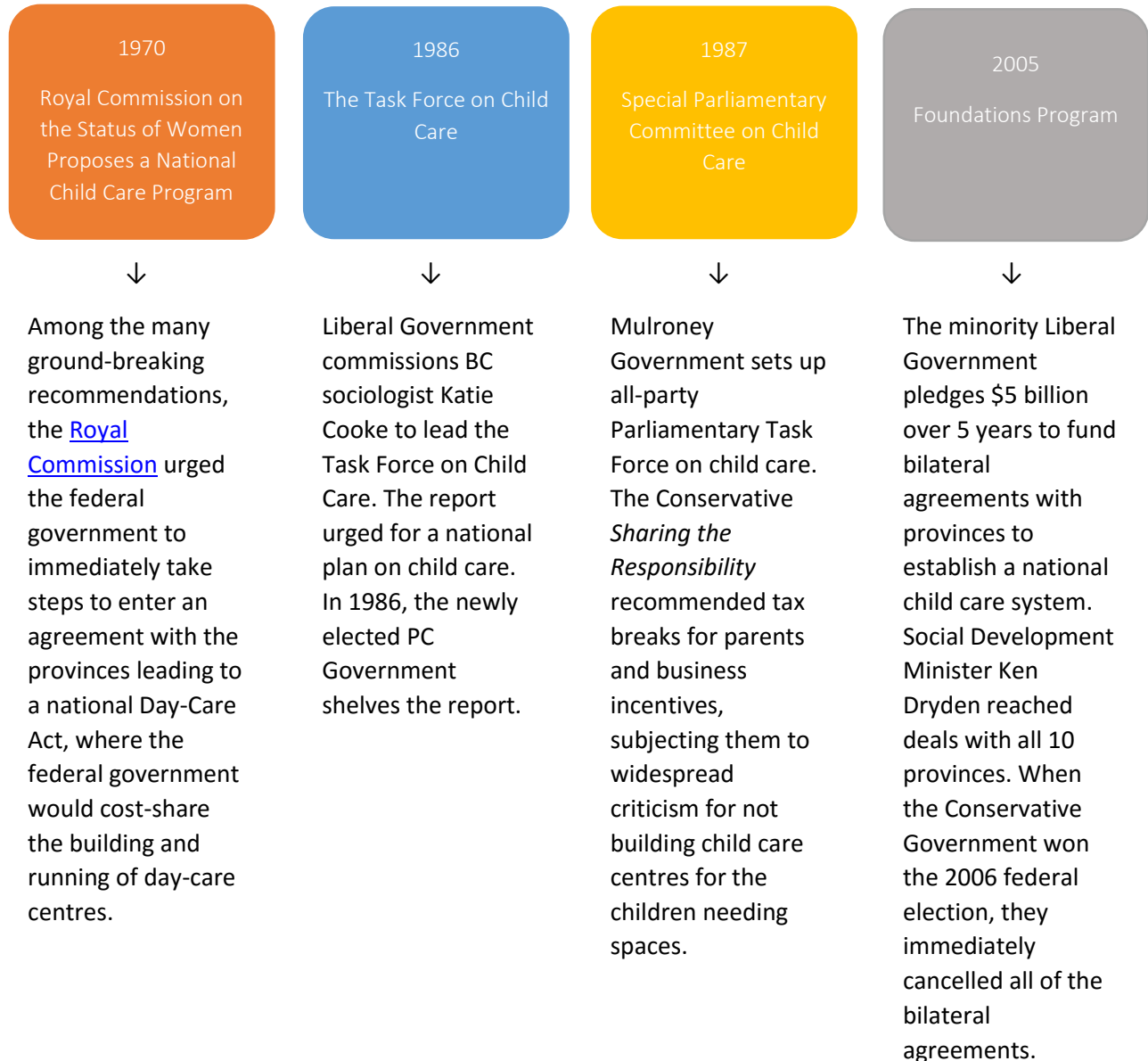
The role of the federal government is limited to transferring funds to provincial and territorial governments. They transfer these funds through the Canada Social Transfer. The federal government plays a direct role in providing early learning and child care for First Nations communities, military families, immigrants and refugees.

The unique approaches of each province and territory have led to significant differences across the country in the availability and affordability of child care services.

A Little History

Child care has been an issue on the table in Canada for decades, but no government has yet implemented a national child care system. It has long been recognized by advocates that a universal, publicly-funded child care service is what is needed, as opposed to tax deductions or cash incentives.

Below is a short history of child care in Canada.



In 2006 the Harper Government introduced the Universal Child Care Benefit, as well as a tax credit for day cares in businesses. The universal child-care benefit did not spur the creation of quality or affordable child care, and few businesses took advantage of the tax credit.

Child Care in 2016

The new Liberal Government has promised to create a national framework on child care. As of February, we are still not clear on what that framework will look like.

The Ministers responsible are Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families Children and Social Development, and Maryann Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

After election, Prime Minister Trudeau promised to invest \$20 billion into “social infrastructure”. While it is yet unclear what will be covered by that fund, child care advocates across Canada are lobbying for a national child care system to be funded.

Why Does this Matter to CFUW?

A national child care system is a mechanism that would enhance the status of women across Canada. As an organization that advocates for the economic empowerment, the issue of child care is a priority. Care work falls chiefly on the shoulders of women – often unpaid, and at the expense of other aspects of their lives. A nationally-funded child care system would allow millions of women to enter *and* remain in the workforce, promoting their economic empowerment, independence and overall equality.