

TECHNOLOGY



We will be recording this session to make it available to others on the AECEA webpage



If you don't want to speak, or don't have a microphone, you can use the Question Box to share.



Speaking: Please check your device before we begin to see if you have a microphone. We will unmute your microphone on our end, but you still need to unmute yourself on your end before you speak.



Hand up: if you would like to share, please put your hand up using the icon in your menu bar. Please make sure your hand is down at all other times.

AECEA CONNECT

July 23, 2020
7-8pm

#childcaremattersalberta

ESSENTIAL, PROUD, WORKING TOGETHER

Canada's Early Childhood Educators



CANADIAN CHILD CARE FEDERATION

FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES SERVICES
DE GARDE À L'ENFANCE

PURPOSE

Why are we doing this?

- We want to hear from ECE's about their experience of this unprecedented time
- We want to create a forum to share information about supports available, what is happening in the province and with the Ministry, and how ELCC is moving forward
- We want to ensure ECE's know that AECEA is the voice for ECE's in Alberta, and that we want to hear from you!

PROTOCOLS

How will this work?

- This is a safe space: respectful feedback, prioritize connection
- We don't have all the answers: we want to hear from you about what is important to you, and we'll share what we know about what's happening
- Use Question Box to share questions you have about what is happening, resources available, etc.

AGENDA

1. AECEA Updates
2. Guest Speakers: Tara Stang & Christopher Smith
from the Muttart Foundation
ELCC in Alberta: Results from a National Survey
During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Understanding Bilateral Funding

HIGHLIGHTS FROM EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE IN ALBERTA: RESULTS FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE MUTTART FOUNDATION
CHRISTOPHER SMITH & TARA STANG



HIGHLIGHTS FROM EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE IN ALBERTA

- National survey of early learning and child care services in April and May, 2020 (a snapshot of the week of April 27 to May 1)
- Significant impacts of the pandemic on early learning and care services (centre-based care, school age care, preschools and family child care)
- Early learning and care sectors fared differently across Canada – linked to starting conditions and government support during the pandemic
- Reporting of Alberta results – Muttart Foundation and Canadian Child Care Federation
- Key challenges looking ahead to reopening and recovery

ALBERTA SURVEY RESULTS – SOME HIGHLIGHTS AND COMPARISONS

Alberta early learning and care services headed into the pandemic facing challenges and uncertainty – provincial service and funding cuts

Alberta government support for centres required to close more limited than in other provinces – only modest supports for family child cares that remained open

During the survey reference week (April 27 to May 1)

- 85% of AB centres closed – 85% of AB family child care homes open
- Centres providing emergency child care – median enrolment of 5 children
- Family child care homes that remained open – enrolment fell by one third

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF SERVICES EARLY IN THE PANDEMIC

The majority of services in a worse financial position than before the pandemic – more so than the rest of Canada

- 81% of AB child care centres in a worse financial situation – close to 2/3rds 'much worse' – the highest rate of any province.
- 80% of AB family child care providers in a worse financial position

The areas of financial difficulty centres reported:

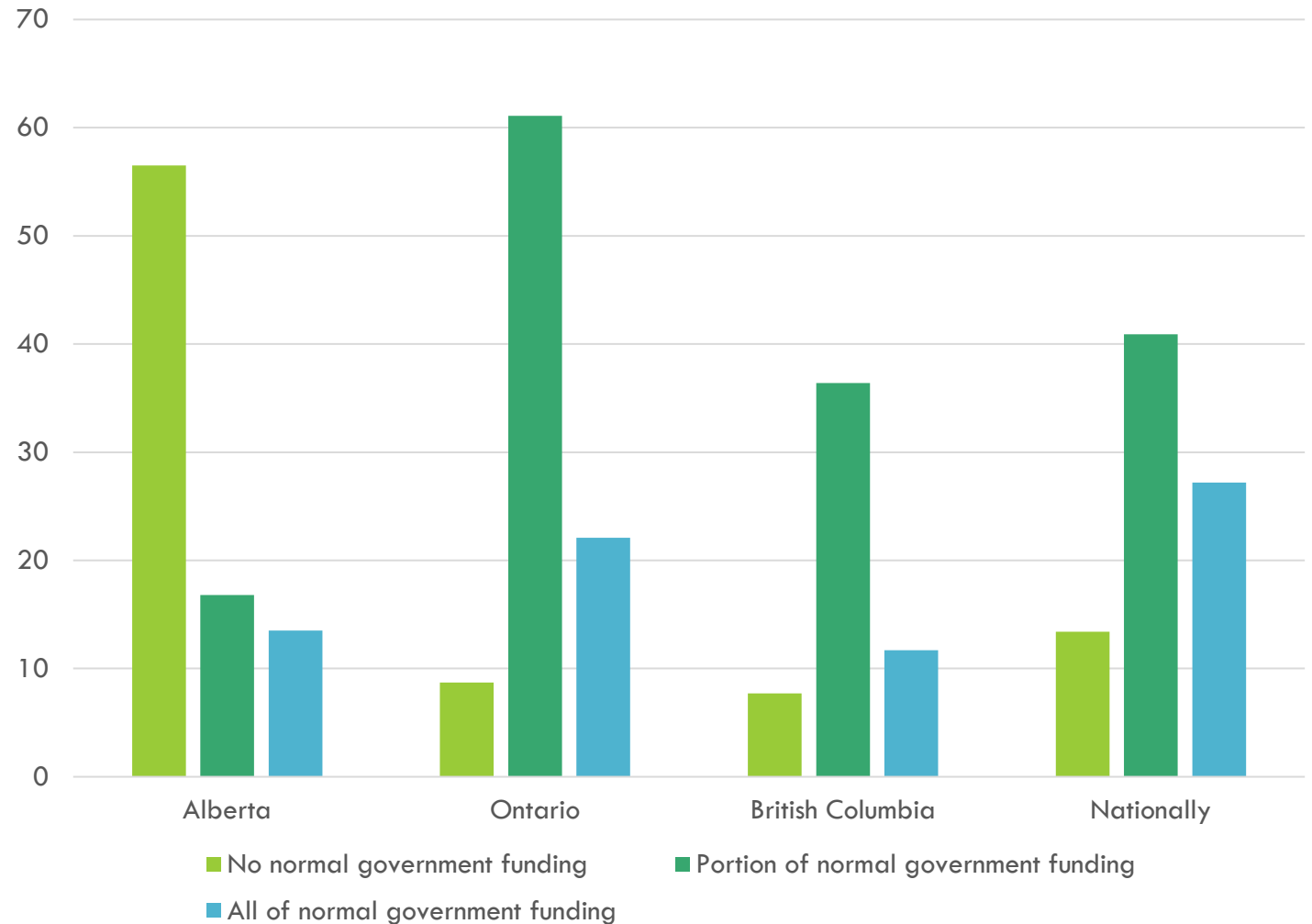
- meeting fixed costs (AB 70%)
- meeting wage/salary costs (52%)

THE LOSS OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Nationally, child care centres worse financial situation linked to the loss of parent fees

In Alberta, 7 out of 10 centres also reported the loss or reduction of government funding as a contributing factor

Percentage of child care centres receiving amount of normal (pre-COVID-19) government funding



WILL SERVICES REOPEN?

A smaller proportion of closed AB centres (56%) said they will 'definitely reopen' compared to other regions of Canada – 71% in BC, 66% in ON

One in five closed AB centres are either unsure of reopening or say they will 'probably' or 'definitely' remain closed – double the proportion in BC and ON

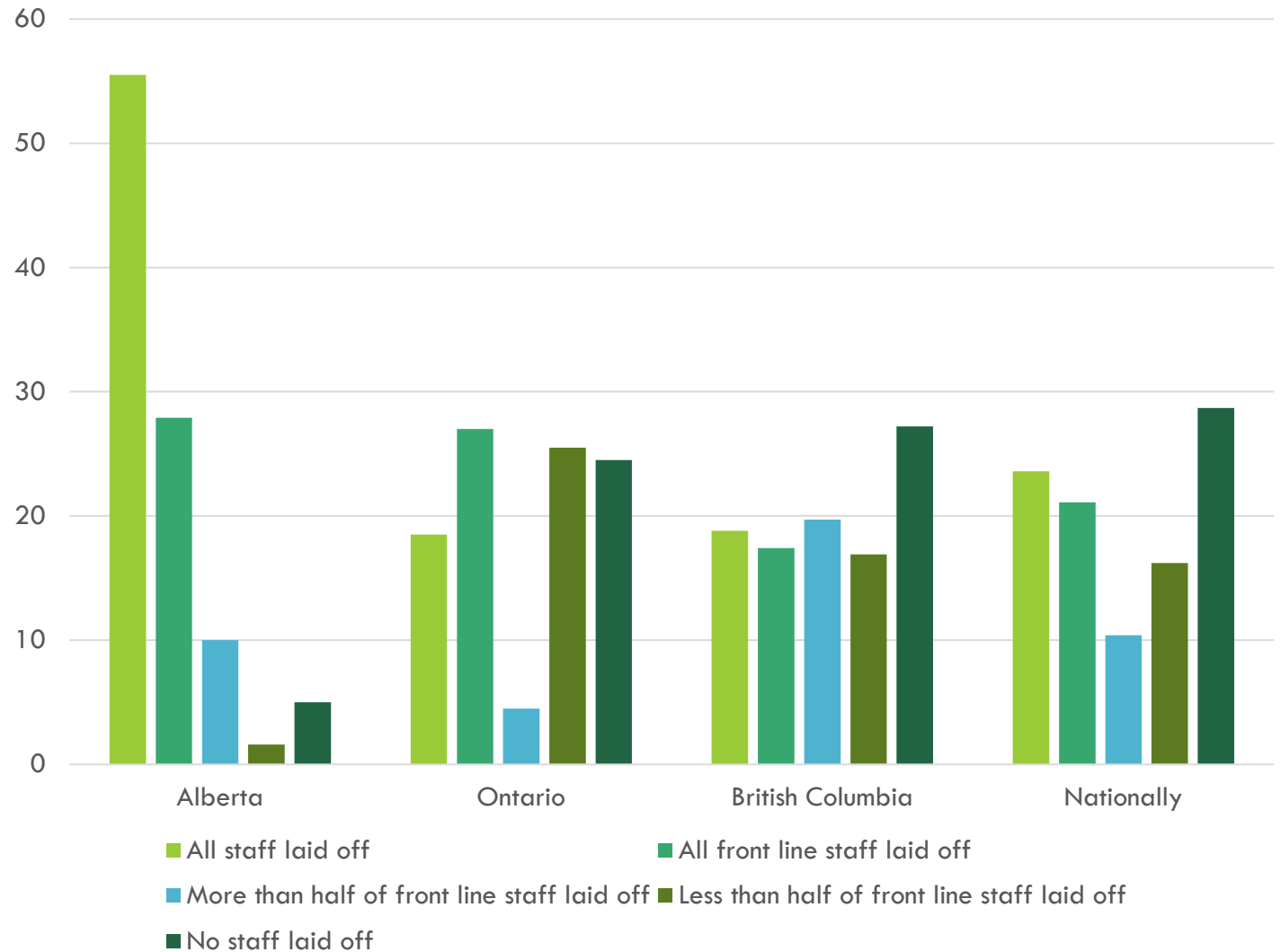
64% of closed AB family child care homes say they will 'definitely reopen'.

One in four closed AB family child care homes are either unsure of reopening or say they will 'probably' or 'definitely' remain closed – higher than in BC and ON

WHAT HAPPENED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS?

AB centres reported the highest proportion of staff layoffs across the country

Percentage of staff layoffs because of COVID-19



WHAT CHALLENGES DO SERVICES ANTICIPATE AROUND REOPENING?

The vast majority of Alberta child care centres anticipated problems around **reopening and the resumption of service** delivery – a similar theme nationally

9 out of 10 AB child care centres anticipate challenges with **lower enrolments and health and safety costs**

7 out of 10 AB child care centres anticipate challenges with the **cost of reopening**

The majority of family child care homes see similar challenges

7 out of 10 AB family child care providers anticipate challenges with **lower enrolments**

5 out of 10 AB family child care providers anticipate challenges with **health and safety costs**

LOOKING AHEAD

The impacts of the pandemic on early learning and care services in AB means that reopening and recovery requires significant **new public investments**

Government of Alberta relief package announced in May – (\$17.8 million over three phases – phase 3 investments pending) probably insufficient given sector needs

Anticipated challenges

- **Lower enrolments** (due to new service guidelines and changed family economic situations)
- **Additional health and safety** considerations (hard costs and allocation of staff resources)
- The **return and retention of early childhood educators**

Potential Provincial and Federal investments to support reopening and recovery

- Unallocated provincial monies for child care (amount to be determined)
- One-year bi-lateral agreement monies (est. \$45.6 million)
- Federal 'Safe restart' monies (est. \$60 to \$65 million for ELCC)

THANK YOU!

Questions or comments?

Links to reports:

Child Care Now, Canadian Child Care Federation & Childcare Resource and Research Unit. 2020. Canadian Child Care: Preliminary Results from a National Survey During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Retrieved at <https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/20/07/canadian-child-care-preliminary-results-national-survey-dur>

The Muttart Foundation and the Canadian Child Care Federation. 2020. Early Learning and Child Care in Alberta: Results from a National Survey During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Retrieved at <https://www.muttart.org/reports/early-learning-and-child-care-in-alberta-results-from-a-national-survey-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Highlights from 'Early Learning and Child Care in Alberta: Results from a National Survey During the COVID-19 Pandemic'. Retrieved at <https://www.muttart.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Alberta-Survey-Highlights-final-1.pdf>

SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES

- Does the report represent your experiences during the pandemic?
- What is most meaningful for you in the report?
- How do you see yourself using or sharing this information?
- What else is most significant for you right now as you continue to navigate ELCC in the pandemic?

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

➤ Join us on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aecea.ca/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AECEA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aecea/>

➤ AECEA Website: <https://aecea.ca/>

➤ Write to the Minister: cs.minister@gov.ab.ca OR cs.childcare@gov.ab.ca

➤ Canadian Child Care Federation: <https://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/>

➤ Mental health resources: www.albertahealthservices.ca/covid19/mentalhealth