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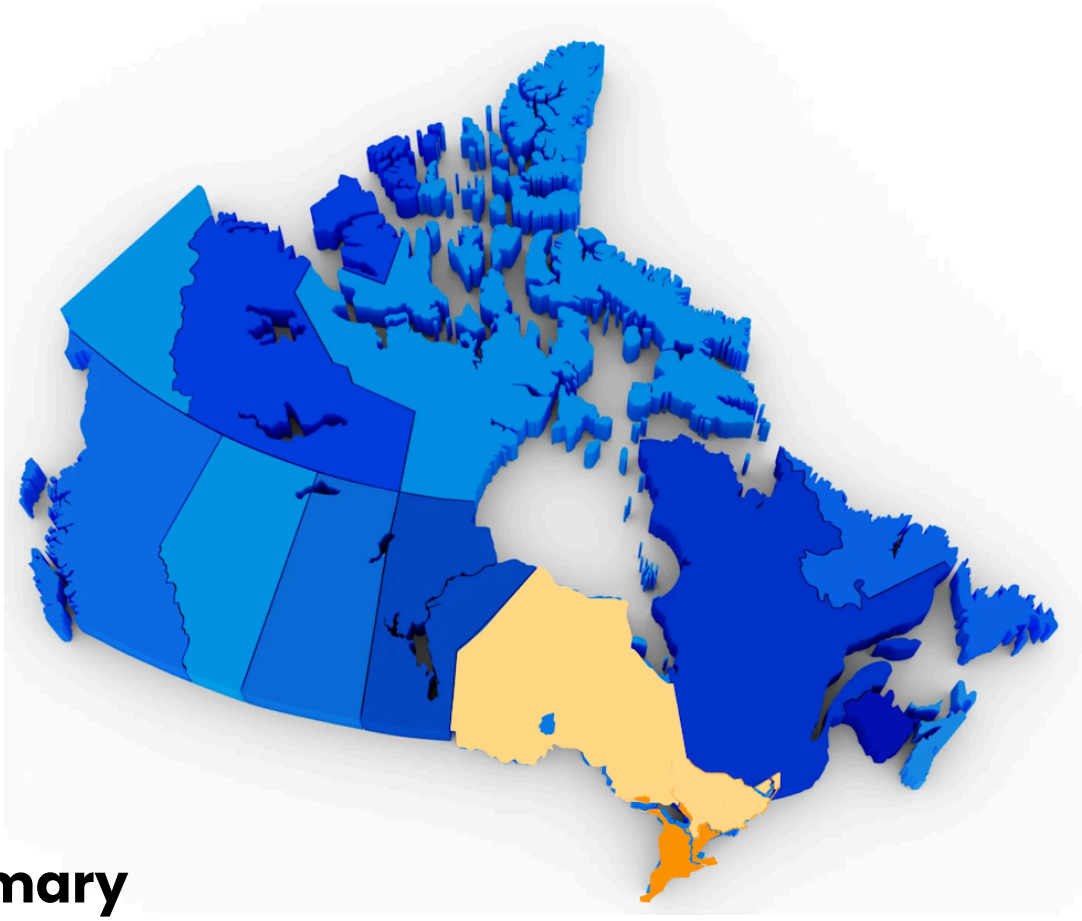
Demographic analysis and shortage of French-language early learning and childcare services

Profile of French-language ELCC services for children aged 0 to 4 eligible for French-language education in the

Ontario Peninsula

La Commission nationale des parents francophones

September 2026



Summary

Several communities in the Ontario Peninsula are left with a shortage of full-time spaces in French-language early learning and childcare services for young children. As part of the federal program aiming to reduce childcare costs, it is essential that this cost saving initiative be associated with an increase in the number of available spaces. This analysis, produced by the Commission nationale des parents francophones [National Commission of Francophone Parents] (CNPF), presents a situation assessment in the Ontario Peninsula as of September 1, 2025, and suggests communities to target to optimize the impact of these new spaces.

The project "Creation and Support of the Network of Early Childhood Stakeholders in Minority Communities" by the Commission nationale des parents francophones (CNPF) is funded by the Government of Canada through the "Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Program" under the Action Plan for Official Languages. The ideas and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.

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Note: The terms "French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) service" and "French-language ELCC service" include the diverse terminology used in the provinces and territories, such as daycares, educational centres, early childhood centres (ECC), etc.

1- Background

In 2021, the Government of Canada aimed, in its budget, to implement an accessible and affordable early learning and childcare system for the Canadian population[1]. With the aim of helping Canadians return to work after the COVID-19 pandemic, the government identified the cost of childcare services as a barrier preventing some parents from returning to work. Budget 2021 therefore provided $30 billion over five years for this initiative, with the main goal of reducing childcare fees for preschool-aged children.

However, while the focus was placed on reducing childcare fees, this was not accompanied by an equivalent creation of spaces in French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) services, making the shortage of spaces even more important. Five years later, accessibility remains a major challenge: many parents struggle to find a full-time space for their child in a French-language ELCC service. Fee reduction is an important incentive for parents. On the other hand, it does not necessarily make up for the shortage of available spaces. This sharp increase in demand for services by parents has not been offset by a corresponding supply of new spaces.

In a Francophone minority setting, this problem is made worse by the spread of Francophones across the territory. Early childhood stakeholders see this program as an opportunity to start new services, knowing that, obviously, many families could benefit from such a service.

This study fits into this context by identifying geographic areas where children aged 0 to 4 are present (according to the 2021 *Census of Population*), but where there are not enough childcare services. In other words, we seek to identify, for Francophone parents looking for

[1] https://www.budget.canada.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html

a space in a French-language ELCC service, the chances that they will be able to find such a space for their child. We must be aware that parents unable to find a French-language ELCC service will face two choices: delay their return to the labour market or send their child to a centre in another language, usually English.

It is important to specify that the areas identified in this document may be childcare deserts for Francophones, while overall there are enough spaces for parents of the English-speaking majority. The CNPF believes it is essential to identify areas that are Francophone deserts so that the Government of Canada's program achieves its objectives, meaning that access to childcare for Canadian women and men is equal for parents of both official languages.

Launched in 2025, the project *Creation and Support of the Network of Early Childhood Stakeholders in Minority Communities* aims, by 2028, to improve access to high-quality, affordable, flexible, and inclusive early learning and childcare (ELCC) spaces, services, and programs in Francophone minority communities (FMCs). To achieve this, the CNPF was able to conduct studies and data analyses.

This present study aims to identify service deserts in the Ontario Peninsula communities, based on census subdivisions and the number of rights-holders aged 0 to 4, to determine the number of spaces in French-language ELCC services to be created to meet the needs of Francophone communities in the province.

2- Methodology

This study identifies French-language ELCC service deserts by identifying a ratio of full-time spaces per child. To conduct this analysis, we use the number of children aged 0 to 4 identified as eligible for French-language education, pursuant to section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*[2], as measured by Statistics Canada's 2021 *Census of Population*. The term "child" used in the rest of this document refers to this definition.

To obtain the number of spaces in French-language ELCC services, this study uses data from the Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario (AFÉSEO) [Francophone Association for Early Childhood Services Education of Ontario], and direct calls to various French-language ELCC services. The identified spaces are accurate as of September 1, 2025. We thus identified 5,356 full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services in Ontario Peninsula[3,4].

From these datasets, we were able to identify a parameter indicating, for each preschool-aged child, how many spaces are available.

To accurately represent the situation in the Ontario Peninsula, we used datasets that allowed us to locate children in this part of the province as precisely as possible. While in some cases it was possible to specify a municipality directly, in others we had to fall back on census divisions or regions. The city of Toronto was divided into neighbourhoods, and then into sectors, when using this dataset. These neighbourhoods (presented in Appendix 2) were identified by postal service areas (the first three characters of the postal code).

[2] Table n° 98100541 from Statistics Canada's former CANSIM database.
[3] The complete list of identified French-language ELCC services is found in Appendix 1.
[4] Please note that full-day kindergarten is available to eligible 4-year-old children in French-language schools in Ontario and this program is not included in this study.

To determine the French-language ELCC service deserts, we will use three simplified thresholds:

1. **First threshold: ratio between 0 and 0.40 (in white)**

   It corresponds to **high-need** sectors, meaning there are more than 2.5 children per available space. On average, this means a parent waits 2.5 years before getting a space in a French-language ELCC service. Considering that a parent registers their child on a service waitlist from birth, the child will be over two and a half years old when a space is offered. By this point, the parent will likely have chosen another childcare option for their child.

2. **Second threshold: ratio between 0.40 and 0.70 (in yellow)**

   It corresponds to **medium-need** communities, where there are between 1.5 and 2.5 children per space in French-language ELCC services. As explained previously, this means the child will, on average, get a space around the age of 2. In this case, we find ourselves in a situation where the parent might use a temporary option while waiting to get a space in a French-language ELCC service.

3. **Third threshold: ratio superior to 0.70 (in green)**

   It corresponds to **well-served** communities. In these areas, there are enough French-language ELCC spaces, and parents can trust they will get a space for their child relatively quickly (before 18 months of age)[5]. Given that the parental leave permitted by law is 18 months, it can be assumed that children in these communities will secure a French-language ELCC space on their very first day.

Thus, only communities with a ratio of more than 0.70 spaces per child aged 0 to 4 (meaning at least 7 spaces for every 10 children) are considered properly served, while all others are classified as areas in need.

[5] According to the *Québec Study on the Accessibility and Use of Childcare Services 2021* by the Québec Institute of Statistics, 70% of children use childcare services. As Québec is a model in childcare, a threshold of 0.70 spaces per child (where 70% of children have a space) is considered sufficient.

3- Foundations of the analysis

A few elements deserve to be presented from the outset to lay the groundwork for this analysis.

Data as of September 1, 2025

Current data represent the best available information as of September 1, 2025. Given how quickly an ELCC service can close and current efforts to develop new spaces, we must be aware that a geographic area can rapidly shift from a high-need community to a well-served area, and vice versa.

Pre-kindergarten and school-age childcare services excluded

Since the purpose of this study is to present an inventory of available full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services, all preschool services offering part-time spaces were excluded from the ratio calculations. The same applies to all support services for school-age childcare programs that serve school-aged children.

Proximity to home: the primary reason for choosing an ELCC service

A study by Learn Square Inc.[6] revealed that the primary reason parents choose an ELCC service is its proximity to their home or workplace. The 2025 *Canadian Early Learning and Child Care Survey* by Statistics Canada[7] arrives at a similar conclusion: two thirds of parents mention location as a determining factor in choosing childcare services for their child.

Although censuses provide an overview of the average distance a parent travels to work, they do not indicate the destination of that commute. This means that home location data is the only usable data. Despite this limitation in the data, the proximity of the home remains an important factor in the parent's choice.

[6] Learn Square Inc., *Rapport d'évaluation des services de garde privés francophones et bilingues dans les régions d'Edmonton et Calgary*, [*Evaluation Report on French-Language and Bilingual Private Childcare Services in the Edmonton and Calgary Regions],* presented to the CDÉA, February 2021.
[7] Statistics Canada, *Table 42-10-0006-01 Parent and guardian reasons for using main childcare arrangement, children aged 0 to 5 years*, 2025.

4- Presentations of results

The Ontario Peninsula extends from the Peterborough census division to the Windsor census division. It is home to 39,795 children aged 0 to 4 who are eligible for French-language education, representing just over 30% of all eligible children in Canada. The Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA) alone accounts for 21,555 (16.5%) of all eligible children aged 0 to 4 in the country.

With 5,356 full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services, the average ratio for the Ontario Peninsula stands at **0.13 spaces per child**, or 1 space for every 8 children. This means that for this part of the province to be adequately served by French-language ELCC services, the number of spaces would need to be multiplied by five.

To clearly present the situation in the Ontario Peninsula, the region was divided into six sectors: the Greater Toronto CMA, the Windsor-Middlesex corridor, the Niagara-Oxford corridor, the Huron-Waterloo corridor, the Dufferin-Bruce corridor, and the Muskoka-Northumberland corridor. Table 1 shows the distribution of eligible children and spaces in the Ontario Peninsula across these sectors.

Table 1: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Ontario Peninsula*

Sector	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Greater Toronto CMA	3,418	21,555	**0.16**
Windsor-Middlesex Corridor	858	6,675	**0.13**
Niagara-Oxford Corridor	709	4,890	**0.14**
Huron-Waterloo Corridor	189	2,970	**0.06**
Dufferin-Bruce Corridor	143	2,820	**0.05**
Muskoka-Northumberland Corridor	39	885	**0.04**
TOTAL – ONTARIO PENINSULA	**5,356**	**39,795**	**0.13**

To maximize the reach of these potential new spaces, their location is paramount. This is why a more detailed analysis by geographic area is necessary to identify the municipalities where the needs are greatest.

Greater Toronto

The Greater Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA) has 21,555 children eligible for French-language education and 110 French-language ELCC services, which offer 3,418 full-time spaces, for a **ratio of 0.16 spaces** per child. With only 1 space for every 6 children, most parents must turn to English-language services, which increases the risk of linguistic assimilation even before children enter school.

Given its size, Greater Toronto was divided into five regions: Downtown, Peel, York, Durham, and Halton. These regions were further subdivided and will be analyzed later. Table 2 shows the distribution of spaces and eligible children by region.

Table 2: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Greater Toronto CMA*

Region	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Downtown	1,322	9,860	**0.13**
Peel	601	4,010	**0.15**
York	430	3,025	**0.14**
Durham	592	2,670	**0.22**
Halton	473	1,990	**0.24**
TOTAL – GREATER TORONTO CMA	**3,418**	**21,555**	**0.16**

Looking more closely at the data, we see that the situation varies little from one region to another.

The Downtown region has 9,860 children and 1,322 spaces in French-language ELCC services, or roughly 1 space for every 8 children (a ratio of 0.13). The Peel (601 spaces for 4,010 children; a ratio of 0.15) and York (430 spaces for 3,025 children; a ratio of 0.14) regions show a similar situation to that of the Downtown region.

The Durham and Halton regions show slightly better results. Durham has 2,670 children for 592 spaces, or just under 1 space for every 5 children (a ratio of 0.22). Halton has the best ratio in the area with 473 spaces for 1,990 children, which corresponds to 1 space for just over 4 children (a ratio of 0.24).

Thus, the overall picture of Greater Toronto shows territorial uniformity, meaning that needs are relatively similar from one region to another in terms of ratios. The Durham and Halton regions offer slightly better access than the Downtown, Peel, and York regions, but all of them remain high-need areas.

To achieve enough spaces in French-language ELCC services, Greater Toronto would need to significantly increase its supply. Setting a target of 0.7 spaces per child (or 7 spaces for every 10 children), more than 11,000 spaces would need to be created in Greater Toronto.

The next section provides a regional analysis to better target where to create these spaces.

Downtown Toronto

The Downtown region is located at the centre of the Greater Toronto CMA, along Lake Erie. Statistics Canada proposes four broad sectors for this region of the CMA: Toronto – South, Toronto – Scarborough, Toronto – North York, and Toronto – West. The distribution of spaces and eligible children across these sectors is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Greater Toronto Downtown region*

Sector	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Toronto – South	534	4,043	**0.13**
Toronto – Scarborough	493	3,648	**0.14**
Toronto – North York	175	1,282	**0.14**
Toronto – West	120	887	**0.14**
TOTAL – DOWNTOWN REGION	**1,322**	**9,860**	**0.13**

Analysis of the data for the Downtown region shows that all sectors present a similar situation and display low access to French-language ELCC services.

Thus, the Toronto – South sector has 4,043 children for 534 spaces, or approximately 1 space per 7.5 children (a ratio of 0.13); Toronto – Scarborough has 3,648 children for 493 spaces (a ratio of 0.14); Toronto – North York shows the same ratio (1,282 children for 175 spaces; a ratio of 0.14), as does Toronto – West (887 children for 120 spaces; a ratio of 0.14).

Thus, the entire Downtown region shows a significant shortage of spaces in French-language ELCC services. A substantial increase in supply would be necessary, particularly in Toronto – South and Toronto – Scarborough, to better meet the needs of Francophone families. With 5,580 spaces needed to be well served, the Downtown region would need to significantly increase its French-language ELCC services.

Table 4 presents the distribution of these spaces by sector within this region of the city so that they are located as close as possible to the children's homes. Given the large number of spaces needed, the table shows the number of centres to be created if each centre had an average of 60 spaces.

Table 4: *Ideal distribution of new French-language ELCC childcare spaces in the Toronto Downtown region*

Sector	N° of spaces to create	N° of necessary centres (average of 60 spaces per centre)
Toronto – South	2,296	38
Toronto – Scarborough	2,061	34
Toronto – North York	722	12
Toronto – West	501	9
TOTAL – DOWNTOWN REGION	**5,580**	**93**

This table clearly illustrates the extent of the needs for this region of the city. More than 90 French-language ELCC services, with an average of 60 spaces each, would need to be added to the current supply to make the Downtown region well served. Such an increase cannot happen quickly.

Peel Region

The Peel region is located to the west of the Downtown and York regions. Statistics Canada proposes three broad sectors for this region of the CMA: Peel – South, Peel – Central, and Peel – North. The distribution of spaces and eligible children across these sectors is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Greater Toronto Peel region*

Sector	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Peel – South	359	2,045	**0.18**
Peel – Central	117	1,755	**0.07**
Peel – North	125	210	**0.60**
TOTAL – PEEL REGION	**601**	**4,010**	**0.15**

From the outset, a significant disparity is observed in the situation of this region, depending on the sectors identified. The most concerning situation is in the Peel – Central sector. Indeed, there are only 117 spaces for the 1,755 children in the sector (a ratio of 0.07). The Peel – South sector presents a slightly more encouraging situation, with 359 spaces for 2,045 children (a ratio of 0.18). Both sectors remain high-need areas.

Conversely, the Peel – North sector shows better access with 210 children for 125 spaces, or approximately 3 spaces per 5 children (a ratio of 0.60). This is a medium-need area, the only medium-need sector in the Greater Toronto CMA.

Thus, the overall portrait of the Peel Region reveals strong territorial inequality. While the Peel – North sector has relatively satisfactory coverage, the Peel - South and Peel – Central sectors suffer from a significant shortage of spaces in French-language ELCC services. A targeted increase in services in these sectors would be necessary to better meet the needs of Francophone families and support the vitality of the Francophone community in the region.

Given the large number of spaces needed to bring this region above the well-served area threshold, the specific location of new French-language ELCC services is less relevant than the number of services to be created. This number is estimated to assume an average capacity of 60 spaces per centre. Table 6 presents the number of spaces and French-language ELCC services required to achieve satisfactory coverage in the Peel Region.

Table 6: *Ideal distribution of new French-language ELCC childcare spaces in the Greater Toronto Peel region*

Sector	N° of spaces to create	N° of necessary centres (average of 60 spaces per centre)
Peel – South	1,073	18
Peel – Central	1,112	19
Peel – North	22	1
TOTAL – PEEL REGION	**2,207**	**38**

In total, there is a shortage of 2,207 spaces in the Peel Region. As previously mentioned, the Peel – North sector is a medium-need area. Thus, only 22 new spaces are needed for it to achieve satisfactory coverage. This need could be met by a single French-language ELCC service or by a few home-based French-language ELCC services.

For the other two sectors, there is a shortage of more than 1,000 spaces. Nearly 20 French-language ELCC services would need to be created in each of them.

York Region

The York region borders the Downtown region of Greater Toronto on the north side.

Statistics Canada proposes three broad sectors for this area of the CMA, namely the York – South, York – Central, and York – North sectors. The distribution of spaces and eligible children across these sectors is presented in Table 7.

Table 7: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Greater Toronto York region*

Sector	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
York – South	283	1,965	**0.14**
York – Central	147	905	**0.16**
York – North	0	155	**0.00**
TOTAL – YORK REGION	**430**	**3,025**	**0.14**

It is quickly apparent that these three sectors constitute high-need areas.

With a ratio below 0.20 in each of them, fewer than 1 in 5 children have access to a full-time space in French-language ELCC services. The York – North sector has no French-language ELCC services at all, despite the presence of 155 children.

In absolute terms, however, it is in the York – South sector that the needs are most pronounced. Indeed, nearly two thirds of the children eligible for French-language education in the York Region live in this sector. However, these 1,965 children have access to only 283 spaces (a ratio of 0.14).

Finally, in the York – Central sector, there are 147 spaces and 905 children (a ratio of 0.16), or 1 space for every 6 children.

Thus, the overall portrait of the York Region reveals significant needs for additional spaces. Given the large number of spaces to be added, the specific location within each sector has been set aside to highlight the number of French-language ELCC services to be created. This number of services is estimated to assume an average capacity of 60

spaces per service. Table 8 presents the number of spaces and French-language ELCC services required to achieve satisfactory coverage.

Table 8: *Ideal distribution of new French-language ELCC childcare spaces in the Greater Toronto York region*

Sector	N° of spaces to create	N° of necessary centres (average of 60 spaces per centre)
York – South	1,093	18
York – Central	487	8
York – North	109	2
TOTAL – YORK REGION	**1,689**	**28**

In total, there is a shortage of 1,689 spaces in the York Region. Since the York – South sector includes nearly two thirds of the children eligible for French-language education, it is also in this sector that two thirds of the services and spaces to be created are located (18 services and 1,093 spaces).

In the York – Central and York – North sectors, the shortage could be met by adding 487 spaces (6 services) and 109 spaces (2 services), respectively.

Durham Region

The Durham region is located to the east of the Downtown and York regions. Statistics Canada proposes four broad sectors for this region of the Greater Toronto CMA, namely the Durham – Central, Durham – West, Durham – East, and Durham – North sectors. The distribution of spaces and eligible children across these sectors is presented in Table 9.

Table 9: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Greater Toronto Durham region*

Sector	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Durham – Central	367	1,240	**0.30**
Durham – West	150	830	**0.18**
Durham – East	75	460	**0.16**
Durham – North	0	140	**0.00**
TOTAL – DURHAM REGION	**592**	**2,670**	**0.22**

In the Durham region, the Durham – Central sector has the best ratio at 0.30. Although it is still a high-need area, the number of spaces nevertheless allows nearly 1 in 3 children to hope for a space in a French-language ELCC service.

The Durham – West and Durham – East sectors present similar situations, with ratios of 0.18 and 0.16, respectively. With only 150 and 75 spaces, barely 1 in 6 children have access to a space in a French-language ELCC service.

As for the Durham – North sector, there are no French-language ELCC services at all, despite the presence of 140 children eligible for French-language education.

Cumulatively, these data indicate that more than 1,200 spaces would be needed to meet the needs of this region of Greater Toronto. As with the other regions, given the large number of spaces to be added, we present here an approximate number of French-language ELCC services to be created, assuming an average capacity of 60 spaces per

centre. Table 10 presents the number of spaces and French-language ELCC services required to achieve satisfactory coverage.

Table 10: *Ideal distribution of new French-language ELCC childcare spaces in the Greater Toronto Durham region*

Sector	N° of spaces to create	N° of necessary centres (average of 60 spaces per centre)
Durham – Central	501	8
Durham – West	431	7
Durham – East	247	4
Durham – North	98	2
TOTAL – DURHAM REGION	**1,277**	**21**

In total, there is a shortage of 1,277 spaces in the Durham region. The Durham – Central and Durham – West sectors show the most pronounced needs, with shortages of 501 and 431 spaces, respectively. This shortage could be met by adding 7 to 8 French-language ELCC services in each of these sectors.

The other two sectors also show a significant shortage of spaces. For Durham – East, adding 4 services (247 spaces) would be sufficient, while for Durham – North, 2 services (98 spaces) would need to be added to achieve adequate coverage.

Halton Region

The Halton region is located to the west of the Peel Region. Statistics Canada proposes four broad sectors for this region of the CMA: Halton – South, Halton – West, Halton – Central, and Halton – Northeast. The distribution of spaces and eligible children across these sectors is presented in Table 11.

Table 11: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Greater Toronto Halton region*

Sector	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Halton – South	218	660	**0.33**
Halton – West	66	585	**0.11**
Halton – Central	150	555	**0.27**
Halton – Northeast	39	190	**0.21**
TOTAL – HALTON REGION	**473**	**1,990**	**0.24**

The Halton region presents an interesting situation: its average ratio is the highest of all regions in the Greater Toronto CMA. However, the ratio of spaces per child by sector ranges from 0.11 to 0.33.

The Halton – South sector has the highest ratio, with 218 spaces for 660 children (a ratio of 0.33). Conversely, the Halton – West sector offers only 66 spaces, despite a similar number of children (a ratio of 0.11). The Halton – Central and Halton – Northeast sectors have spaces for only 1 in 4 children (ratios of 0.27 and 0.21, respectively).

Therefore, all these sectors constitute high-need areas. Just like the other regions of Greater Toronto, these sectors would need to add a significant number of spaces to enable them to reach the threshold of 7 spaces per 10 children. In total, 921 spaces would need to be created in this region. Table 12 presents the number of additional spaces and French-language ELCC services to be added to achieve satisfactory coverage.

Table 12: *Ideal distribution of new French-language ELCC childcare spaces in the Greater Toronto Halton region*

Sector	N° of spaces to create	N° of necessary centres (average of 60 spaces per centre)
Halton – South	244	4
Halton – West	344	6
Halton – Central	239	4
Halton – Northeast	94	2
TOTAL – HALTON REGION	**921**	**16**

With 921 missing spaces in the Halton region, 16 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces each would need to be added to provide adequate coverage.

The Halton – West sector has the greatest needs. Indeed, 344 spaces (approximately 6 services) would need to be added there. The Halton – South and Halton – Central sectors would each need 240 spaces (4 services). The smallest number of children in the Halton – Northeast sector also means lower needs in absolute terms. Thus, 2 new French-language ELCC services and 94 new spaces could fill the gap for this sector.

Rest of the Peninsula

While most children aged 0 to 4 eligible for French-language education in the Ontario Peninsula live in Greater Toronto, there remain 18,240 children in the rest of the Peninsula. To thoroughly analyze the situation, we have grouped the remaining communities into five corridors, based on census divisions (presented in Appendix 3):

- Windsor-Middlesex Corridor: Essex, Middlesex, Chatham-Kent, Lambton, and Elgin census divisions.
- Niagara-Oxford Corridor: Hamilton, Niagara, Brant, Oxford, and Haldimand-Norfolk census divisions.

- Huron-Waterloo Corridor: Waterloo, Wellington, Perth, and Huron census divisions.
- Dufferin-Bruce Corridor: Simcoe, Grey, Dufferin, and Bruce census divisions.
- Muskoka-Northumberland Corridor: Peterborough, Northumberland, Kawartha Lakes, Muskoka, and Haliburton census divisions.

Windsor-Middlesex Corridor

The Windsor–Middlesex corridor groups together the census divisions located in southwestern Ontario, along the U.S. border and around the major urban centres of Windsor and London. There are 6,675 children and 858 spaces in French-language ELCC services. This represents a **ratio of 0.13 spaces**, or slightly more than 1 space for every 8 children. This corridor therefore constitutes a high-need area. Table 13 presents the distribution of spaces and eligible children across these census divisions.

Table 13: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Windsor-Middlesex corridor*

Census division	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Essex	445	3,160	**0.14**
Middlesex	315	2,160	**0.15**
Chatham-Kent	0	605	**0.00**
Lambton	98	490	**0.20**
Elgin	0	260	**0.00**
TOTAL – WINDSOR-MIDDLESEX CORRIDOR	**858**	**6,675**	**0.13**

As can be seen, no census division in this corridor offers enough spaces in French-language ELCC services to adequately meet demand. Nevertheless, given the presence of several large cities in these census divisions, a more detailed analysis is carried out in the following sections.

Essex Division

The Essex division has 3,160 children and 445 full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services. This represents a ratio of 0.14 spaces, making the division a high-need area. Table 14 presents the distribution of spaces and eligible children across the main municipalities in the division.

Table 14: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Essex division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Windsor	220	1,500	**0.15**
Lakeshore	0	475	**0.00**
LaSalle	47	275	**0.17**
Amherstburg	34	260	**0.13**
Tecumseh	47	240	**0.20**
Essex	55	155	**0.35**
Leamington	42	130	**0.32**
Kingsville	0	125	**0.00**
TOTAL – ESSEX DIVISION	**445**	**3,160**	**0.14**

The main municipality in the Essex division, Windsor, has 1,500 children and 220 spaces in French-language ELCC services. With a ratio of 0.15, the municipality constitutes a high-need area.

The municipalities of Essex (a ratio of 0.35) and Leamington (a ratio of 0.32) represent the best-served communities, but they remain high-need areas.

The municipalities of LaSalle (275 children), Amherstburg (260 children), and Tecumseh (240 children) each have one French-language ELCC service, but this is far from sufficient to meet demand. The municipalities of Lakeshore (475 children) and Kingsville (125 children) have no spaces at all in a French-language ELCC service.

The number of children eligible for French-language education in these municipalities could justify the addition of 1,767 spaces. The city of Windsor alone could see the addition of 830 spaces (or 14 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces on average). The municipality of Lakeshore (a shortage of 333 spaces) is also a location where the creation of a significant number of French-language ELCC services would be appropriate.

For the other municipalities, the shortage of spaces ranges from 54 spaces (Essex) to 148 spaces (Amherstburg), which means that it would be necessary to add 1 or 2 French-language ELCC services in each of these communities to meet needs.

Middlesex Division

The Middlesex division has 2,160 children and 315 full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services. This represents a ratio of 0.15 spaces, making the division a high-need area. Table 15 presents the distribution of spaces and eligible children across the main municipalities in the division.

Table 15: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Middlesex division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
London	315	1,945	**0.16**
Strathroy-Caradoc	0	70	**0.00**
Thames Centre	0	45	**0.00**
Lucan Biddulph	0	15	**0.00**
Rest of the division	*0*	*85*	***0.00***
TOTAL – MIDDLESEX DIVISION	**315**	**2,160**	**0.15**

The city of London is the main community in the Middlesex division, with 1,945 children aged 0 to 4 eligible for French-language education. It is also home to all 9 French-language ELCC services. The 315 spaces remain insufficient to meet the needs of the city, which constitutes a high-need area. An additional 1,047 spaces would need to be added for the service supply to become sufficient. Assuming services with an average of 60

spaces, this means that 17 French-language ELCC services would need to be added in the city.

The other municipalities in the division have no French-language ELCC services at all, despite the presence of just over 200 children. The municipalities of Strathroy-Caradoc (a shortage of 49 spaces) and Thames Centre (a shortage of 32 spaces) could each benefit from one French-language ELCC service. The municipality of Lucan Biddulph (a shortage of 11 spaces) could benefit from the addition of a home-based French-language ELCC service.

Chatham-Kent Division

The Chatham-Kent division has 605 children, but no French-language ELCC services. The entire population of this census division is grouped under a single municipality, also named Chatham-Kent. This municipality is a high-need area. Table 16 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 16: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Chatham-Kent division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Chatham-Kent	0	605	**0.00**
TOTAL - CHATHAM-KENT DIVISION	**0**	**605**	**0.00**

It should be noted that the shortage of spaces in this division is 424 spaces to cross the well-served area threshold. This means that 7 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces each could be created to meet the community's needs.

Lambton Division

The Lambton division has 490 children and 98 spaces in French-language ELCC services. With a ratio of 0.20, it constitutes a high-need area. Table 17 presents the situation in this census division.

Table 17: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Lambton division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Sarnia	98	335	**0.29**
Petrolia	0	40	**0.00**
St. Clair	0	40	**0.00**
Lambton Shores	0	30	**0.00**
Plympton-Wyoming	0	30	**0.00**
Enniskillen	0	15	**0.00**
TOTAL – LAMBTON DIVISION	**98**	**490**	**0.20**

Analyzing the data for the Lambton census division shows that all French-language ELCC services are in the city of Sarnia. However, since the city has 335 children, these 98 spaces remain insufficient to adequately meet demand (a ratio of 0.29). Across all other municipalities, there are no full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services at all.

To properly serve the census division, 245 spaces would need to be added. More than half of these spaces should be created in the city of Sarnia (a shortage of 137 spaces). The other municipalities could accommodate French-language ELCC services of between 11 and 28 spaces.

Elgin Division

The Elgin division has 260 children, but no French-language ELCC services, making it a high-need area. Table 18 presents its situation.

Table 18: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Elgin division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
St. Thomas	0	155	**0.00**
Central Elgin	0	40	**0.00**
Malahide	0	25	**0.00**
Aylmer	0	20	**0.00**
Rest of the division	*0*	*40*	***0.00***
TOTAL – ELGIN DIVISION	**0**	**260**	**0.00**

The city of St. Thomas alone accounts for 155 children, with no spaces available. The municipalities of Central Elgin, Malahide, and Aylmer also lack services, despite the presence of 40, 25, and 20 children eligible for French-language education, respectively.

To meet the division's needs, 182 spaces in French-language ELCC services would need to be added. The municipality of St. Thomas (a need for 109 spaces) represents the greatest need in absolute terms, though the other municipalities could benefit from the addition of French-language ELCC services of 14 to 28 spaces.

Niagara-Oxford Corridor

The Niagara-Oxford corridor groups together the census divisions located along Lake Erie, between the Greater Toronto CMA and the Windsor-Middlesex corridor. It includes the Hamilton, Niagara, Brant, Oxford, and Haldimand-Norfolk census divisions. There are 4,890 children and 709 spaces in French-language ELCC services, which represents a ratio of **0.14 spaces**, or 1 space for every 7 children. This corridor therefore constitutes a high-need area. Table 19 presents the distribution of spaces and eligible children across these census divisions.

Table 19: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Niagara-Oxford corridor*

Census division	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Hamilton	237	1,955	**0.12**
Niagara	389	1,765	**0.22**
Brant	31	480	**0.06**
Oxford	26	410	**0.06**
Haldimand-Norfolk	26	280	**0.09**
TOTAL – NIAGARA-OXFORD CORRIDOR	**709**	**4,890**	**0.14**

The Hamilton division alone accounts for 1,955 children eligible for French-language education, or 40% of the children in the corridor. The Niagara division accounts for 1,765, or just over one-third of the children. Even though these two divisions have the highest ratios in the corridor (0.12 and 0.22, respectively), they remain far below the satisfactory threshold (0.70) and are considered high-need areas. The other three census divisions have an even lower ratio (between 0.06 and 0.09).

The following sections present the situation in each of these census divisions in greater detail.

Hamilton Division

The Hamilton division has 1,955 children and 5 French-language ELCC services offering 237 spaces. It comprises a single municipality, the city of Hamilton, with a ratio of 0.12, making it a high-need area. Table 20 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 20: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Hamilton division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Hamilton	237	1,955	**0.12**
TOTAL – HAMILTON DIVISION	**237**	**1,955**	**0.12**

To achieve sufficient coverage, 1,132 spaces would need to be added in Hamilton. Assuming services with an average of 60 spaces, 19 new centres would need to be created in the city.

Niagara Division

The Niagara division has 1,765 children and 389 spaces in French-language ELCC services, representing a ratio of 0.22 spaces per child. Table 21 summarizes its situation.

Table 21: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Niagara division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
St. Catharines	133	415	**0.32**
Welland	155	410	**0.38**
Niagara Falls	101	375	**0.27**
Thorold	0	120	**0.00**
Port Colborne	0	105	**0.00**
Fort Erie	0	85	**0.00**
Grimsby	0	65	**0.00**

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Lincoln	0	55	**0.00**
Niagara-on-the-Lake	0	45	**0.00**
Pelham	0	45	**0.00**
West Lincoln	0	35	**0.00**
Wainfleet	0	10	**0.00**
TOTAL – NIAGARA DIVISION	**389**	**1,765**	**0.22**

Analyzing the data for the Niagara division shows that French-language ELCC services are concentrated in the cities of Welland (155 spaces), St. Catharines (133 spaces), and Niagara Falls (101 spaces). Welland has the best access, with a ratio of 0.38, just below the medium-need area threshold. St. Catharines (a ratio of 0.32) and Niagara Falls (a ratio of 0.27) also have ratios approaching a medium-need area but remain high-need areas.

The shortage of spaces in these three cities remains significant, as the supply of spaces would need to be doubled to reach an adequate level. Thus, 132 spaces would need to be added in Welland, 158 spaces in St. Catharines, and 162 spaces in Niagara Falls.

In the other municipalities of the division, there are no French-language ELCC services at all, making all these municipalities high-need areas. The number of children in the cities of Thorold (120 children, a shortage of 84 spaces), Port Colborne (105 children, a shortage of 74 spaces), and Fort Erie (85 children, a shortage of 60 spaces) could justify adding French-language ELCC services with significant capacity (more than 60 spaces each).

In the municipalities of Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, and West Lincoln, the number of children suggests more modest French-language ELCC services (between 25 and 45 spaces). Finally, in Wainfleet, a home-based French-language ELCC service should be sufficient to meet the community's needs.

Brant Division

The Brant division has 480 children. There is only 1 French-language ELCC service with 31 spaces. Overall, with a ratio of 0.06 spaces per child, it is a high-need area. Table 22 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 22: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Brant division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Brantford	31	385	**0.08**
County of Brant	0	80	**0.00**
New Credit (Part) 40A	0	10	**0.00**
Rest of the division	*0*	*5*	***0.00***
TOTAL – BRANT DIVISION	**31**	**480**	**0.06**

The French-language ELCC service is in Brantford, the largest city in the division. With 31 spaces for 385 children, the ratio is barely 0.08, or 1 space for every 12 children. It is a high-need area, and 239 spaces (4 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces each) would need to be added to serve it well.

The municipality of the County of Brant, the rural area surrounding Brantford, accounts for 80 children. Although this number of children could justify the creation of 56 spaces in French-language ELCC services, these children are likely dispersed across the territory. This means that home-based ELCC services might be more appropriate to meet the needs.

The same applies to the New Credit Indigenous Reserve (10 children).

Oxford Division

The Oxford division has 410 children and 1 French-language ELCC service with 26 spaces. Overall, with a ratio of 0.06 spaces per child, it is a high-need area. Table 23 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 23: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Oxford division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Woodstock	26	215	**0.12**
Ingersoll	0	40	**0.00**
Tillsonburg	0	35	**0.00**
Zorra	0	35	**0.00**
East Zorra-Tavistock	0	25	**0.00**
Norwich	0	25	**0.00**
South-West Oxford	0	20	**0.00**
Blandford-Blenheim	0	15	**0.00**
TOTAL – OXFORD DIVISION	**26**	**410**	**0.06**

The only French-language ELCC service in this census division is in the city of Woodstock (26 spaces), which has 215 children for these 26 spaces, or approximately 1 space for every 8 children (a ratio of 0.12). This city therefore constitutes a high-need area. The number of available spaces would need to be multiplied by six (a shortage of 125 spaces) to serve the community well.

Across all other municipalities, there are no French-language ELCC services at all. The children are relatively dispersed, such that the shortage of spaces ranges from 11 to 28 spaces in these communities.

Haldimand-Norfolk Division

The Haldimand-Norfolk division has 280 children and 1 French-language ELCC service with 26 spaces. Overall, with a ratio of 0.09 spaces per child, it is a high-need area. Table 24 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 24: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Haldimand-Norfolk division*

Sector	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Norfolk County	26	145	**0.18**
Haldimand County	0	135	**0.00**
TOTAL – HALDIMAND-NORFOLK DIVISION	**26**	**280**	**0.09**

The Haldimand-Norfolk division is divided into two counties: Norfolk County and Haldimand County. The only French-language ELCC service is in Norfolk County. With 26 spaces for 145 children, this county's ratio is 0.18 spaces, or slightly more than 1 space for every 6 children. An additional 76 spaces would need to be added to bring this county into the well-served area (ratio ≥ 0.70).

Haldimand County has no spaces in French-language ELCC services at all, despite the presence of 135 children. In this county, 95 spaces would need to be added to reach the adequate coverage threshold.

Huron-Waterloo Corridor

The Huron-Waterloo corridor groups together the census divisions located west of Toronto, extending to Lake Huron. Among others, it includes the Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo and Guelph CMAs. There are 2,970 children and 189 spaces in French-language ELCC services in this corridor. This represents a **ratio of 0.06 spaces**, or 1 space for every 16 children. This corridor therefore constitutes a high-need area. Table 25 presents the distribution of spaces and eligible children across these divisions.

Table 25: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Huron-Waterloo corridor*

Census division	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Waterloo	157	1,895	**0.08**
Wellington	32	805	**0.04**
Perth	0	205	**0.00**
Huron	0	65	**0.00**
TOTAL – HURON-WATERLOO CORRIDOR	**189**	**2,970**	**0.06**

From the outset, there is a complete absence of spaces in French-language ELCC services in the Perth and Huron divisions, despite the presence of 205 and 65 children aged 0 to 4 eligible for French-language education, respectively.

The Waterloo division concentrates most of the corridor's French-language ELCC services, with 157 spaces for 1,895 children (a ratio of 0.08). The Wellington division presents an even more concerning situation, with only 32 spaces for 805 children (a ratio of 0.04).

The following sections analyze the situation in these census divisions in greater detail.

Waterloo Division

The Waterloo division has 1,895 children and 157 spaces in French-language ELCC services. Overall, with a ratio of 0.08 spaces per child, it is a high-need area. Table 26 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 26: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Waterloo division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Kitchener	87	920	**0.09**
Cambridge	39	465	**0.08**
Waterloo	31	310	**0.10**
Wilmot	0	65	**0.00**
Woolwich	0	65	**0.00**
North Dumfries	0	40	**0.00**
Wellesley	0	30	**0.00**
TOTAL – WATERLOO DIVISION	**157**	**1,895**	**0.08**

Analyzing the data for the Waterloo division shows that French-language ELCC services are concentrated in the cities of Kitchener, Cambridge, and Waterloo. These three cities all have very similar ratios, namely 920 children for 87 spaces in Kitchener (a ratio of 0.09), 465 children for 39 spaces in Cambridge (a ratio of 0.08), and 310 children for 31 spaces in Waterloo (a ratio of 0.10).

The shortage of spaces in French-language ELCC services in these communities is significant. Thus, the number of children in Kitchener could justify the addition of 557 spaces, or approximately 9 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces on average. In Cambridge, the shortage is 287 spaces (approximately 5 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces). Finally, in Waterloo, the shortage is 186 spaces (approximately 3 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces).

The other municipalities have no spaces in French-language ELCC services at all, despite the presence of several children. Thus, in the municipalities of Wilmot, Woolwich, North Dumfries, and Wellesley, there are between 30 and 65 children, which could justify French-language ELCC services of 21 to 46 spaces in each of these municipalities.

Wellington Division

The Wellington division has 805 children and 1 French-language ELCC service with 32 spaces. Overall, with a ratio of 0.04 spaces per child, it is a high-need area. Table 27 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 27: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Wellington division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Guelph	32	590	**0.05**
Centre Wellington	0	75	**0.00**
Erin	0	40	**0.00**
Puslinch	0	30	**0.00**
Mapleton	0	20	**0.00**
Wellington North	0	15	**0.00**
Minto	0	10	**0.00**
Rest of the division	*0*	*25*	***0.00***
TOTAL – WELLINGTON DIVISION	**32**	**805**	**0.04**

Analyzing the data for the Wellington division shows that the only French-language ELCC service is in the city of Guelph. The city has 590 children for these 32 spaces, or approximately 1 space for every 18 children (a ratio of 0.05). The shortage in the city of Guelph is, therefore, 381 spaces.

The other municipalities in the division offer no spaces in French-language ELCC services

at all. Yet, in the municipalities of Centre Wellington, Erin, and Puslinch, the number of children would justify French-language ELCC services of 21 to 53 spaces.

In the municipalities of Mapleton, Wellington North, and Minto, home-based French-language ELCC services of 7 to 14 spaces could instead be created to meet the needs of these communities.

Perth Division

The Perth division has 205 children, but no French-language ELCC services. Overall, this division represents a high-need area. Table 28 summarizes the situation in this census division.

Table 28: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Perth division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Stratford	0	85	**0.00**
North Perth	0	50	**0.00**
Perth East	0	30	**0.00**
St. Marys	0	20	**0.00**
West Perth	0	20	**0.00**
TOTAL – PERTH DIVISION	**0**	**205**	**0.00**

Although there are no French-language ELCC services in this census division, the number of children is sufficient to justify creating services. French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces in Stratford and 35 spaces in North Perth would allow these communities to be well served.

For the municipalities of Perth East, West Perth, and St. Marys, home-based French-language ELCC services would likely be better suited to meet the needs of these communities.

Huron Division

Overall, the Huron division has 65 children, but no French-language ELCC services. It is therefore a high-need area. However, as shown in Table 29, these children are dispersed across several communities, making it difficult to establish ELCC services larger than home-based services.

Table 29: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Huron division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Huron East	0	15	**0.00**
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh	0	10	**0.00**
Bluewater	0	10	**0.00**
Goderich	0	10	**0.00**
Rest of the division	*0*	*20*	***0.00***
TOTAL – HURON DIVISION	**0**	**65**	**0.00**

Dufferin-Bruce Corridor

The Dufferin-Bruce corridor groups together the census divisions located northwest of Toronto, extending to Georgian Bay. Among others, it includes the Barrie CMA. There are 2,820 children and 143 spaces in French-language ELCC services in this corridor. This represents a **ratio of 0.05 spaces,** or 1 space for every 20 children. This corridor therefore constitutes a high-need area. Table 30 presents the distribution of spaces and eligible children across these census divisions.

Table 30: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Dufferin-Bruce corridor*

Census division	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Simcoe	143	2,120	**0.07**
Grey	0	255	**0.00**
Dufferin	0	235	**0.00**
Bruce	0	210	**0.00**
TOTAL - DUFFERIN-BRUCE CORRIDOR	**143**	**2,820**	**0.05**

The Simcoe division alone concentrates all French-language ELCC services in the corridor, with 143 spaces for 2,120 children, or approximately 1 space for every 14 children (a ratio of 0.07). Despite this, the supply remains largely insufficient to meet the needs of Francophone families.

In the Grey, Dufferin, and Bruce divisions, despite the presence of 255, 235, and 210 children, respectively, there are no French-language ELCC services at all. These are therefore high-need areas.

The following section specifically presents the situation in each of these census divisions.

Simcoe Division

Overall, the Simcoe division has 2,120 children and 4 French-language ELCC services offering a total of 143 spaces. This represents a ratio of 0.07 spaces, or 1 space for every 14 children. Table 31 presents the situation in this division.

Table 31: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Simcoe division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Barrie	39	540	**0.07**
Essa	0	195	**0.00**
Bradford West Gwillimbury	0	165	**0.00**
New Tecumseh	0	155	**0.00**
Innisfil	49	145	**0.34**
Midland	16	125	**0.13**
Tiny	0	120	**0.00**
Orillia	0	115	**0.00**
Springwater	0	100	**0.00**
Oro-Medonte	0	80	**0.00**
Collingwood	39	75	**0.52**
Wasaga Beach	0	75	**0.00**
Penetanguishene	0	70	**0.00**
Clearview	0	45	**0.00**
Adjala-Tosorontio	0	35	**0.00**
Severn	0	35	**0.00**
Tay	0	30	**0.00**
Ramara	0	15	**0.00**
TOTAL – SIMCOE DIVISION	**143**	**2,120**	**0.07**

The city of Barrie is the main community in the division. With 540 children, it has 1 French-

language ELCC service with 39 spaces. This is far from sufficient: 378 spaces, or 339 additional spaces, would be needed to serve this city well.

The town of Innisfil has a French-language ELCC service with 49 spaces and 145 children. The ratio is therefore 0.34. It remains below the medium-need threshold, meaning that even though 1 in 3 children has access to a space in French-language ELCC services, the number of spaces would need to be doubled to serve the community well.

The town of Collingwood has a ratio of 0.52, or 1 space for every 2 children. It is the only town in the corridor in the medium-need zone. The shortage is therefore only 14 spaces, making it the municipality in this corridor with the least pressing needs.

The other municipalities have very low ratios, such that needs range from 11 spaces (in Ramara) to 237 spaces (in Essa).

Across the entire census division, 1,341 spaces in French-language ELCC services would need to be added to serve it well.

Grey Division

Overall, the Grey division has 255 children, but no French-language ELCC services. Table 32 presents the distribution of children in this division.

Table 32: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Grey division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Owen Sound	0	80	**0.00**
Southgate	0	30	**0.00**
Georgian Bluffs	0	30	**0.00**
Grey Highlands	0	25	**0.00**
West Grey	0	25	**0.00**

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Meaford	0	20	**0.00**
Chatsworth	0	15	**0.00**
The Blue Mountains	0	15	**0.00**
Hanover	0	15	**0.00**
TOTAL – GREY DIVISION	**0**	**255**	**0.00**

This census division has 9 communities with at least 15 children eligible for French-language education. These communities would need French-language ELCC services of 11 to 56 spaces each to be well served.

Dufferin Division

Overall, the Dufferin division has 235 children, but no French-language ELCC services. Table 33 presents the situation in this division.

Table 33: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Dufferin division*

Municipality	N°of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Orangeville	0	105	**0.00**
Shelburne	0	60	**0.00**
Dufferin	0	30	**0.00**
Mono	0	20	**0.00**
Mulmur	0	10	**0.00**
East Garafraxa	0	10	**0.00**
TOTAL – DUFFERIN DIVISION	**0**	**235**	**0.00**

The situation in the Dufferin division is like that of the Grey division: more than 200 children eligible for French-language education without access to French-language ELCC services.

There are 6 communities with at least 10 children in this division. While in the communities

of Mono (a shortage of 14 spaces), Mulmur (a shortage of 7 spaces), and East Garafraxa (a shortage of 7 spaces), home-based French-language ELCC services would be adequate to provide a sufficient supply of spaces in the communities of Dufferin (a shortage of 21 spaces), Shelburne (a shortage of 42 spaces), and Orangeville (a shortage of 74 spaces), services with larger capacity would need to be considered.

Bruce Division

Overall, the Bruce division has 210 children, but no French-language ELCC services. Table 34 presents the situation in this division.

Table 34: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Bruce Division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Saugeen Shores	0	60	**0.00**
Kincardine	0	40	**0.00**
Brockton	0	30	**0.00**
South Bruce	0	30	**0.00**
Huron-Kinloss	0	25	**0.00**
South Bruce Peninsula	0	10	**0.00**
TOTAL – BRUCE DIVISION	**0**	**210**	**0.00**

The situation is essentially the same in the Bruce division: there are a total of 210 children eligible for French-language education without access to French-language ELCC services.

There are 6 communities with at least 10 children in this division. These communities could benefit from French-language ELCC services of varying sizes, ranging from 7 spaces (in South Bruce Peninsula) to 42 spaces (in Saugeen Shores). In total, the number of children would justify adding 147 spaces across the entire division.

Muskoka-Northumberland Corridor

The Muskoka-Northumberland corridor groups together the census divisions located northeast of Toronto, between Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario. Among others, it includes the Peterborough CMA. There are 885 children and 39 spaces in French-language ELCC services in this corridor. This represents a **ratio of 0.04 spaces**, or 1 space for every 25 children. This corridor therefore constitutes a high-need area. Table 35 presents the distribution of spaces and eligible children across these census divisions.

Table 35: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Muskoka-Northumberland corridor*

Census division	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Peterborough	39	355	**0.11**
Northumberland	0	190	**0.00**
Kawartha Lakes	0	155	**0.00**
Muskoka	0	140	**0.00**
Haliburton	0	45	**0.00**
TOTAL – MUSKOKA-NORTHUMBERLAND CORRIDOR	**39**	**885**	**0.04**

The only French-language service in this corridor is in the Peterborough division. There are no spaces in the other census divisions, even though they have several children. This means that each of these census divisions constitutes a high-need area.

The following sections present each of these divisions individually.

Peterborough Division

The Peterborough division has the highest number of children eligible for French-language education in this corridor. With 355 children and 39 spaces in French-language ELCC services, the ratio is 0.11 spaces, making it a high-need area. Table 36 presents the situation in this census division.

Table 36: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Peterborough division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Peterborough	39	220	**0.18**
Cavan-Monaghan	0	35	**0.00**
Selwyn	0	30	**0.00**
Otonabee-South Monaghan	0	20	**0.00**
Trent Lakes	0	20	**0.00**
Douro-Dummer	0	10	**0.00**
Rest of the division	*0*	*20*	***0.00***
TOTAL – PETERBOROUGH DIVISION	**39**	**355**	**0.11**

This census division includes the city of Peterborough, which has 220 children and is home to the only French-language ELCC service. With 39 spaces, the ratio is 0.18, or slightly fewer than 1 space for every 5 children. This also means that the number of spaces would need to be quadrupled for the city to be well served.

The other municipalities in the division have between 10 and 35 children. This means that between 7 and 25 spaces would need to be added to adequately meet the needs for French-language ELCC services in these communities.

Northumberland Division

The Northumberland division has 190 children, but no French-language ELCC services, making it a high-need area. Table 37 presents the situation in this census division.

Table 37: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Northumberland division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Cobourg	0	40	**0.00**
Hamilton	0	30	**0.00**
Brighton	0	25	**0.00**
Port Hope	0	25	**0.00**
Trent Hills	0	20	**0.00**
Alnwick/Haldimand	0	15	**0.00**
Rest of the division	*0*	*35*	***0.00***
TOTAL – NORTHUMBERLAND DIVISION	**0**	**190**	**0.00**

The children in this census division are spread across several communities, with only 6 having at least 15 children.

With 40 children, the town of Cobourg would need a French-language ELCC service with 28 spaces to meet the community's needs. In the township of Hamilton, a service with 21 spaces would be required instead. With a shortage of 11 to 18 spaces, the other communities would be better suited for home-based French-language ELCC services.

Kawartha Lakes Division

The Kawartha Lakes division consists of a single municipality, Kawartha Lakes. This community has 155 children, but no French-language ELCC services. This makes it a high-need area. The division would need a French-language ELCC service with 109 spaces to be well served. Table 38 presents the situation in this census division.

Table 38: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Kawartha Lakes division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Kawartha Lakes	0	155	**0.00**
TOTAL – KAWARTHA LAKES DIVISION	**0**	**155**	**0.00**

Muskoka Division

The Muskoka division has 140 children, but no French-language ELCC services. This makes it a high-need area. Table 39 presents the situation in this census division.

Table 39: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Muskoka division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Huntsville	0	50	**0.00**
Bracebridge	0	30	**0.00**
Gravenhurst	0	20	**0.00**
Muskoka Lakes	0	20	**0.00**
Lake of Bays	0	10	**0.00**
Muskoka	0	10	**0.00**
TOTAL – MUSKOKA DIVISION	**0**	**140**	**0.00**

The largest concentration of children in this census division is in the municipality of Huntsville. A 35-space French-language ELCC service would need to be created there to well serve its 50 children. The second municipality, Bracebridge, instead shows a need for 21 new spaces.

The other 4 municipalities with at least 10 children show a shortage of 7 to 14 spaces. It would be appropriate to consider creating home-based French-language ELCC services for these communities.

Haliburton Division

The Haliburton division has 45 children, but no French-language ELCC services. This makes it a high-need area. Table 40 presents the situation in this census division.

Table 40: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the Haliburton division*

Municipality	N° of spaces	N° of children	Ratio
Haliburton	0	30	**0.00**
Dysart et al	0	15	**0.00**
TOTAL – HALIBURTON DIVISION	**0**	**45**	**0.00**

This census division has only two municipalities with at least 10 children, namely Dysart et al (15 children) and Haliburton (30 children). Overall, this division could benefit from the addition of 32 spaces to well serve children aged 0 to 4 eligible for French-language education. However, given the dispersion of the children, these spaces would likely be created more easily by adding home-based French-language ELCC services.

5- Conclusion

This study aimed to define the regions (CMAs and corridors, subdivided into census divisions and municipalities) in the Ontario Peninsula that experience a shortage of French-language early learning and childcare services (ELCC), where the number of available spaces is very insufficient compared to the needs of children eligible for French-language education aged 0 to 4. Without proposing an ideal model, the study mainly provides a database and descriptive analysis for individuals who plan to start a project of French-language ELCC services in this region of Ontario.

Overall, Francophone families living in the Ontario Peninsula do not have access to enough full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services. With a **ratio of 0.13 spaces** per child aged 0 to 4 eligible for French-language education, coverage is barely higher than 1 space for every 8 children. This represents a **shortage of 22,500 spaces** for the entire Ontario Peninsula.

The Greater Toronto metropolitan area alone has a shortage of 14,740 spaces, or nearly two thirds of the missing spaces in the Ontario Peninsula. Approximately 200 French-language ELCC services of 60 spaces on average would need to be considered to meet the CMA's needs. The cities of Hamilton (a shortage of 1,132 spaces), London (a shortage of 1,047 spaces), and Windsor (a shortage of 830 spaces) are urban centres where a significant number of new French-language ELCC services would be appropriate.

Obviously, it is unrealistic to assume that every community can support viable French-language ELCC services, given the number of children eligible for French-language education and their distribution on the territory. Therefore, it is important to use the values presented in this analysis to properly size the French-language ELCC service. In some municipalities, family-based French-language ELCC services may be the best option. These home-based services offer flexibility in how care is provided and help ensure financial stability.

Appendix 1

French-language ELCC services in the Ontario Peninsula offering full-time spaces as of September 1, 2025

Municipality	Name of the French-language ELCC service	N° of available spaces
Ajax	SKD Bilingual Child Care Centre	30
Ajax	Les Lucioles	34
Amherstburg	Franco-Sol – St. Jean Baptiste	34
Barrie	Garderie Au cœur de l'amitié inc.	39
Brampton	Garderie du Cercle de l'amitié	31
Brampton	Mount Pleasant Montessori	86
Brantford	Le Ballon rouge	31
Burlington	Les Coccinelles – Renaissance	31
Burlington	Centre Copains-copines	35
Caledon	Preschool Petit Bateau Brampton Caledon	39
Caledon	Cozy Time	86
Cambridge	Centre éducatif Les P'tites Sauterelles	39
Clarington	La Boîte à soleil – St. Joseph	26
Clarington	Les Lucioles Bowmanville	49
Collingwood	Garderie Le Petit Voilier– Notre-Dame-de-la-Huronie	39
East Gwillimbury	Centres éducatifs de l'AFRY Campus Holland Landing	39
Essex	Franco-Sol – Pavillon des jeunes	55
Etobicoke	Le Petit Chaperon rouge d'Etobicoke (Facility #12270)	35
Etobicoke	Garderie du Cercle de l'amitié	40
Etobicoke	Le Petit Chaperon rouge – Richview	45
Guelph	La Garderie de l'Arc-en-ciel	32
Halton Hills	Garderie Porte-soleil	39
Hamilton	Victoria Montessori School	38
Hamilton	Lyonsgate Montessori School	39
Hamilton	Le Ballon rouge	47
Hamilton	St. Thomas the Apostle Nursery School	48

Municipality	Name of the French-language ELCC service	N° of available spaces
Hamilton	La Garderie Le Petit Navire	65
Innisfil	Child Care Centre	49
Kitchener	Waterloo Infant Toddler Daycare Association-K-W Bilingual School Site	16
Kitchener	La Garderie des Lutins	31
Kitchener	La Petite École francophone	40
LaSalle	Franco-Sol Garderie et Centre de ressources – Mgr-Caron	47
Leamington	Franco-Sol Garderie et Centre de ressources – St. Michel	42
London	La Ribambelle de Ste. Jeanne-d'Arc	16
London	La Ribambelle Frère-André (FERMÉ TEMPORAIREMENT)	16
London	La Ribambelle Marie-Curie (FERMÉ TEMPORAIREMENT)	16
London	La Ribambelle – St-Jean de Brébeuf	26
London	La Ribambelle de la Tamise	32
London	La Ribambelle Centre préscolaire francophone de London – Ridgewood	42
London	La Ribambelle – La Pommeraie	49
London	London French Day Care Centre Inc.	61
Markham	La Garderie des Moussaillons – Full-Day Child Care	39
Middlesex County	Angels Daycare Komoka Inc.	57
Midland	Le Petit Voilier – École St. Joseph	16
Milton	Western Heights Montessori Academy	30
Milton	Garderie éducative Petit Bateau – St-Nicolas	32
Milton	Les Coccinelles	39
Milton	Les Coccinelles inc.	49
Mississauga	Ma Petite Maison Child Care inc.	28
Mississauga	Centre éducatif Éveil aux savoirs	31
Mississauga	Preschool Petit Bateau 2	32
Mississauga	Toronto French School (TFS Canada's International School	32
Mississauga	Garderie La Fontaine de l'amitié	39
Mississauga	Preschool Petit Bateau inc. – Garderie éducative	39

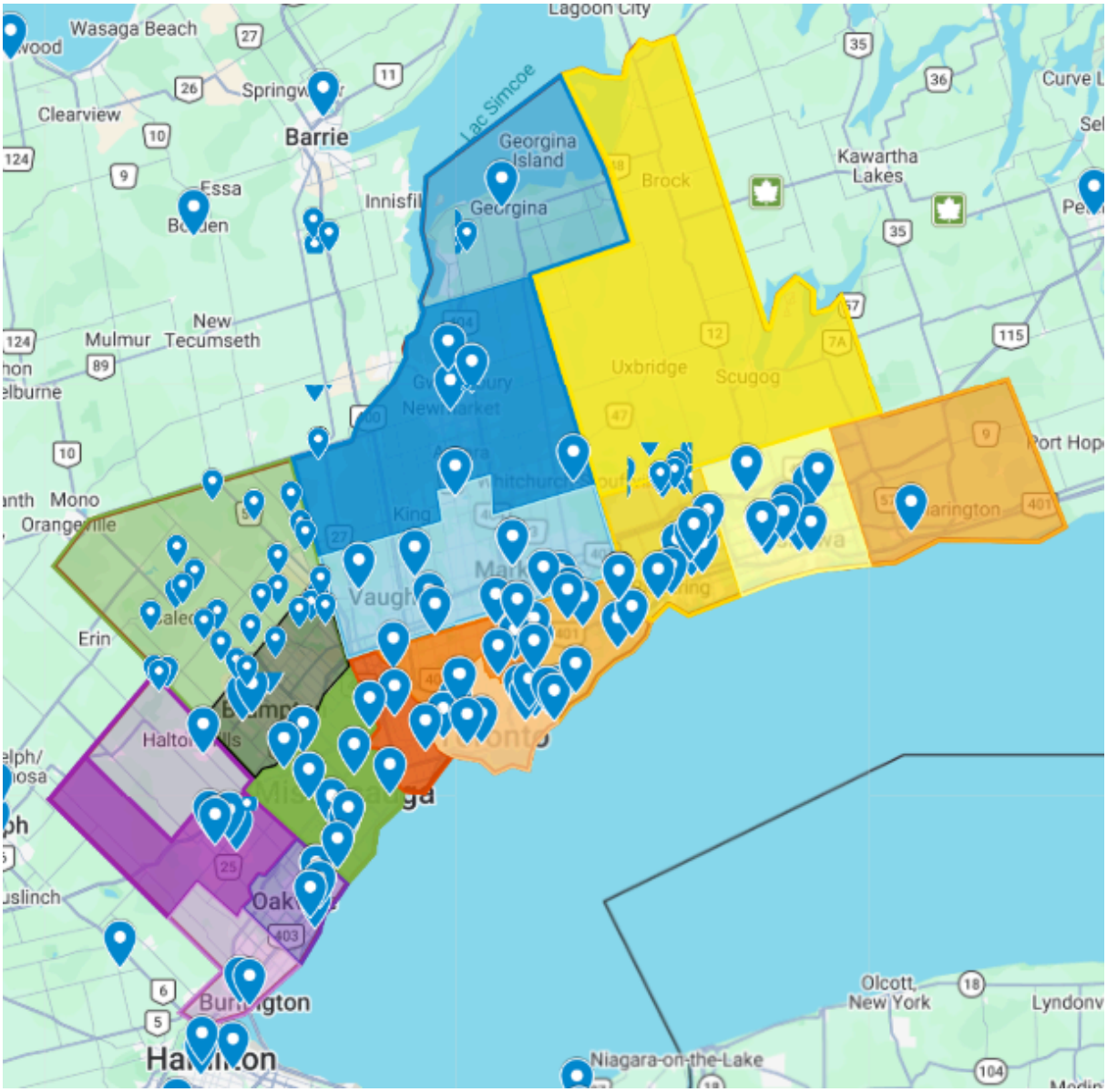
Municipality	Name of the French-language ELCC service	N° of available spaces
Mississauga	Garderie Cercle de l'amitié	49
Mississauga	Kinder Kids International Preschool	109
Newmarket	Angelic Treasures Christian Daycare	69
Niagara Falls	Centre éducatif Les P'tigroux	26
Niagara Falls	La Petite Étoile et Club après-l'école	26
Niagara Falls	La Boîte à soleil – LaMarsh	49
Norfolk County	Garderie La BRIOsphère Norfolk inc.	26
Oakville	Les Coccinelles d'Oakville inc.	24
Oakville	Les Coccinelles d'Oakville	26
Oakville	Les Coccinelles Ste. Marie	38
Oakville	Les Petites Perles	59
Oakville	Western Heights Montessori Academy	71
Oshawa	Les Lucioles – École Antonine-Maillet	26
Oshawa	SKD – Bobby Orr Public School	49
Oshawa	Les Lucioles	55
Oshawa	SKD – R S McLaughlin	73
Peterborough	Centre éducatif Les Petits Curieux	39
Pickering	Les Lucioles	21
Pickering	Small Steps Early Learning Centre	65
Richmond Hill	AFRYmousse	49
Richmond Hill	Centre éducatif de l'AFRY – Campus Richmond Hill	49
Sarnia	La Ribambelle Les Rapides	32
Sarnia	Tilbury Tots Early Learning Centre – Garderie Petit Pas	32
Sarnia	La Ribambelle – St. Thomas d'Aquin	34
Scarborough	WNCCC – Service de garde La Ruche des petites abeilles	19
Scarborough	Le Petit Chaperon rouge	25
Scarborough	WNCCC – Service de garde – Garde centralisée	31
Scarborough	Broad View French Montessori School # 2	34
Scarborough	Garderie Chez Tante Laure	34
Scarborough	Garderie Chez tante Laure 2	34
Scarborough	WNCCC – Service de garde des Louveteaux	39

Municipality	Name of the French-language ELCC service	N° of available spaces
Scarborough	Garderie Mon Petit Jardin	40
Scarborough	Zida Academy	43
Scarborough	Montessori Villa Wisdom Inc.	47
Scarborough	WNCCC – Service de garde La Niche des lionceaux	59
Scarborough	WNCCC – Service de garde La Tanière des tout-petits	88
St. Catharines	Les Coccinelles zélées	39
St. Catharines	Au coin des petits – Centre préscolaire	45
St. Catharines	La Boîte à soleil – L'Héritage	49
Tecumseh	Franco-Sol Garderie et Centre de ressources – Ste. Marguerite d'Youville	47
Toronto	Le Petit Chaperon rouge – Gainsborough	16
Toronto	La Petite École	24
Toronto	Le Petit Chaperon rouge – Queensdale	24
Toronto	Ma Première École	28
Toronto	Broad View French Montessori School	33
Toronto	Discovering Minds Montessori School Inc.	37
Toronto	Parkdale Childcare Centre	37
Toronto	Lycée français de Toronto	43
Toronto	LeRoux Froebel Bilingual School	48
Toronto	Centre de la petite enfance Les Amis du monde	49
Toronto	TFS Canada's International School – Mildehall Branch	50
Toronto	Le Petit Chaperon rouge – Coxwell	69
Toronto	Le Petit Chaperon rouge – Jones	76
Vaughan	Preschool Le Petit Bateau – Maple	39
Vaughan	Garderie du Soleil levant	49
Vaughan	Les Fanfans Daycare	58
Waterloo	Centre éducatif Village d'Elisabeth	31
Welland	Coccinelles zélées SFDA	26
Welland	La Boîte à soleil – Fitch	39
Welland	La Boîte à soleil – Nouvel Horizon	41
Welland	La Boîte à soleil – Franco-Niagara	49

Municipality	Name of the French-language ELCC service	N° of available spaces
Whitby	Providence Daycare Centre – Winchester	41
Whitby	Les Lucioles Jean-Paul-II	50
Whitby	SKD – Roméo Dallaire Public School	73
Whitchurch-Stouffville	La Garderie des Moussaillons – Site Stouffville	39
Windsor	Franco-Sol – St. Edmond	16
Windsor	Franco-Sol – Georges-P.-Vanier	26
Windsor	Franco-Sol Garderie et Centre de ressources - Ste. Therese	26
Windsor	Franco-Sol Monseigneur-Jean-Noel	26
Windsor	Ste-Cecile Child Enrichment Centre	30
Windsor	Franco-Sol Garderie et Centre de ressources - Louise-Charron	39
Windsor	La Garderie Les Petites Mains inc.	57
Woodstock	Garderie francophone du Comté d'Oxford	26
York	Garderie Rayon de soleil	16
York	Terra Viva Montessori Bilingual	23
York	La Citadelle International Academy of Arts & Science	24
York	Curlew Montessori School Inc.	34
York	Les Merveilles du monde	39
York	Petit Pearson Child Care – North York	39

Appendix 2

Division of Greater Toronto by region and location of French-language ELCC services as of September 1, 2025

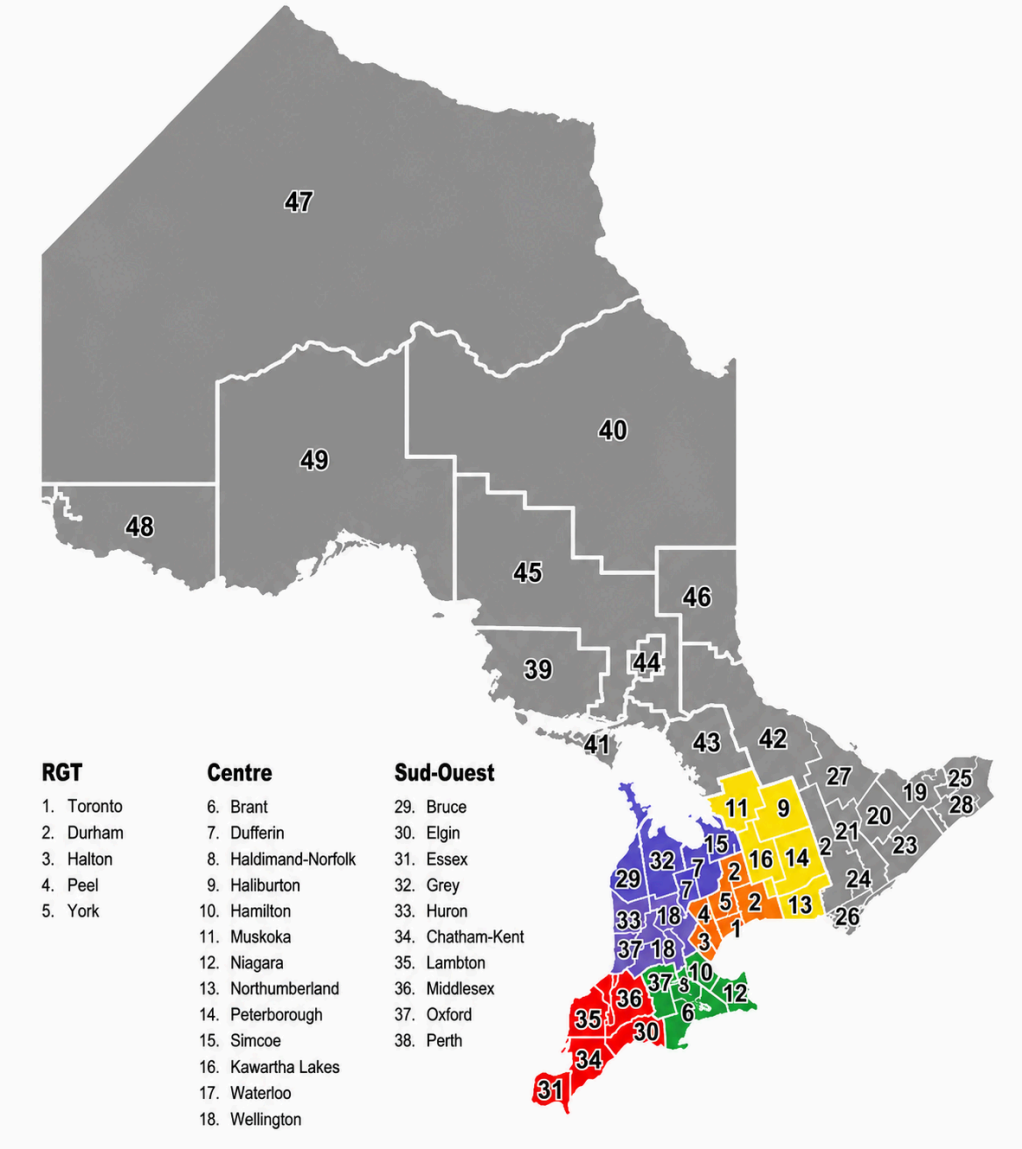


Caption

- **Halton Region**
- **Durham Region**
- **York Region**
- **Downtown Region**
- **Peel Region**
- **French-language ELCC service**

Appendix 3

Ontario Peninsula census divisions
(Statistics Canada, 2021)



Greater Toronto

Huron-Waterloo Corridor

Dufferin-Bruce Corridor

Muskoka-Northumberland Corridor

Niagara-Oxford Corridor

Windsor-Middlesex Corridor