Réseau d'intervenantes et d'intervenants en petite enfance

Maintenir - Renforcer - Développer

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

Manitoba

cnpf

La Commission nationale des parents francophones

September 2026



Summary

Several communities in Manitoba are left with a shortage of full-time spaces in French-language early learning and childcare services. 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 Manitoba 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.

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada

Table of Contents

1- Background 3

2- Methodology 5

3- Foundations of the analysis 7

4- Presentation of results 8

The city of Winnipeg 9

The rest of the province 12

South East Area 13
Southern Area 16
South West Area 18
Western Area 20
Central Area 21
Northern Area 22

5- Conclusion 23

Appendix 1 24

Appendix 2 25

Appendix 3 26

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), but where there are not enough childcare services. In other words, we seek to identify, for Francophone parents looking for a space in a French-language ELCC service, the chances that they will be able to find such a space for

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

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 Canadians 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 communities of each province and territory, 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 Francophones.

This present study aims to identify service deserts in the communities of the province of Manitoba 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 Fédération des parents de la francophonie manitobaine (FPFM) [Francophone Parents Association of Manitoba], the Manitoba Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning, and direct calls to various French-language ELCC services. The identified spaces are accurate as of September 1, 2025. We thus identified 1,124 full-time spaces across the province of Manitoba[3].

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 Manitoba, we used the datasets that locate the children in 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 areas. The city of Winnipeg was divided into sectors when using this dataset. These sectors (shown in Appendix 2) were identified by postal service areas (the first three characters of the postal code).

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

[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.

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)[4]. 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.

[4] 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.[5] 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[6] 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.

[5] 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.
[6] Statistics Canada, *Table 42-10-0006-01 Parent and guardian reasons for using main childcare arrangement, children aged 0 to 5 years*, 2025.

4- Presentation of results

According to the 2021 *Census of Population*, there were 6,940 children aged 0 to 4 eligible for French-language education in Manitoba. With 1,124 full-time spaces in Francophone ELCC services, the provincial average ratio is **0.16 spaces per child**, or 1 space for every 6 children. This means that for the province to become well served by French-language ELCC services, the number of full-time spaces would need to be quadrupled. Table 1 presents a summary of the situation regarding available French-language ELCC spaces and children across the province.

Table 1: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in Manitoba*

Sector	No. of spaces	No. of children	Ratio
Winnipeg	618	4,120	**0.15**
Southeast area	320	1,450	**0.22**
Southern area	20	405	**0.05**
Southwest area	114	480	**0.24**
Western area	0	240	**0.00**
Central area	32	115	**0.28**
Northern area	20	130	**0.15**
Total	**1,124**	**6,940**	**0.16**

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 sectors where the needs are greatest.

The City of Winnipeg

The city of Winnipeg is a census metropolitan area (CMA) with a population of 860,237 according to the 2021 *Census of Population*. Due to its size, it has been divided into seven sectors, which are presented in Appendix 2.

According to data on children eligible for French-language education, there would be 4,120 children aged 0 to 4 in Winnipeg. Considering that we have identified 618 full-time spaces in French-language ELCC services, this means only 1 in 7 children (or a ratio of 0.15 spaces per child) would have access to such services. With only 1 space for every 7 children, most parents must turn to English-language childcare services, which increases the risk of linguistic assimilation even before school entry. Table 2 presents the data for the city of Winnipeg broken down by the proposed sectors.

Table 2: *Distribution of spaces in French-language ELCC services and children in the city of Winnipeg*

Sector	No. of places	No. of children	Ratio
Central	258	840	**0.31**
Northwest	24	410	**0.06**
North	56	925	**0.06**
Northeast	0	255	**0.00**
Southeast	124	585	**0.21**
South	156	795	**0.20**
Southwest	0	310	**0.00**
Total	**618**	**4,120**	**0.15**

A more detailed analysis of the data shows that the situation varies widely from one sector to another.

First, the city's southwest and northeast have no French-language ELCC services, despite the presence of 310 and 255 children, respectively.

In the North, home to 925 children, there are 56 spaces, or 1 space for every 17 children (a ratio of 0.06). The situation is similar in the Northwest, with 410 children for only 24 spaces, or 1 space for every 17 children (a ratio of 0.06).

The South, Southeast, and Central sectors show slightly better results, though they are still insufficient. The South offers 156 spaces for 795 children, or 1 space for every 5 children (a 0.20 ratio). The Southeast has 124 spaces for 585 children, or 1 space for every 4.8 children (a 0.21 ratio). Finally, the Central sector achieves the best coverage in the city with 258 spaces for 840 children, or 1 space for every 3.2 children (a 0.31 ratio). All these sectors thus represent high-need areas, where there is a clear shortage of spaces in French-language ELCC services.

Thus, the overall portrait of Winnipeg shows strong territorial inequality. The peripheral areas, particularly the southwest, northeast, north, and northwest, are the most neglected, while the central area offers better access, although far from sufficient. The development of French-language ELCC services appears urgent to ensure equitable access for children eligible for French-language education and to support the vitality of the city's francophonie.

To achieve satisfactory coverage (representing a ratio of 0.7), the city of Winnipeg would require 2,884 spaces, or 2,266 additional spaces. Table 3 presents the distribution of these spaces by city sector to ensure they are located as close as possible to these children's homes.

Table 3: *Ideal distribution of new French-Language ELCC childcare spaces in the city of Winnipeg*

Sector	No. of spaces to create	Example of location (neighbourhood)
Central	330	North River Heights
Northwest	263	Westwood
North	591	Garden City
Northeast	179	Canterbury Park
Southeast	286	Island Lake
South	400	St. Vital
Southwest	217	Linden Ridge
Total	**2,266**	

This study does not claim that a single French-learning ELCC service will resolve the situation in any given sector of the city. Even in the least populous sector (the Northeast), 179 spaces would be required to meet the need. It would be unrealistic for a single service to have such a capacity. Therefore, the opening of multiple French-learning ELCC services should be planned for each sector. Knowing that the largest French-language ELCC services currently offer around 80 spaces, a total of approximately 30 French-language ELCC services could be considered for Winnipeg.

The Rest of the Province

While most children eligible for French-language education are in the city of Winnipeg, other areas have enough children to justify creating French-language ELCC services. The collected data identified 506 full-time spaces outside Winnipeg. With 2,815 children, the ratio is 0.18 spaces per child, which is an insufficient supply for the eligible population.

To divide the analysis for the rest of the province, we grouped the data according to Statistics Canada's 23 census divisions from 2021, presented in Appendix 3. The province was thus divided into six areas:

- South East Area: census divisions 1 (Eastern Manitoba), 2 (Steinbach Area), 12 (Selkirk Area) and 13 (Beauséjour Area);
- Southern Area: census divisions 3 (Pembina Area), 9 (Whitehorse Plains), 10 (Portage la Prairie Area) and 14 (South Interlake);
- South West Area: census divisions 4 (Pilot Mound Area), 5 (South West Area), 6 (Virden Area), 7 (Brandon Area) and 8 (Central Manitoba);
- Western Area: census divisions 15 (Western Manitoba), 16 (Roblin, Russell and Rossburn Area), 17 (Dauphin) and 20 (Swan Valley);
- Central Area: census divisions 18 (North Interlake) and 19 (North East Manitoba); and
- Northern Area: census divisions 21 (Flin Flon/North West), 22 (Thompson/North Central) and 23 (Churchill/Northern Manitoba).

South East Area

This area of Manitoba includes the four census divisions located along the American border, between the city of Winnipeg and the Ontario border. More than 60% of the province's children eligible for French-language education who live outside Winnipeg live in this area. Division 2 alone accounts for more than 1,000 children. It is also in this area that most full-time spaces in French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) services outside Winnipeg are found (320 spaces).

Table 4 presents the distribution of children and spaces, as well as the space-to-child ratio for the main municipalities (with at least 10 children) and census divisions. From the outset, we note the absence of spaces in divisions 1 and 13, despite the presence of children (95 and 165, respectively). These two census divisions are clearly identified as high-need areas. While the low concentration of Francophones in division 1 can hardly justify a French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) service larger than a home-based one, in division 13, the municipalities of Selkirk (30 children) and St. Andrews (40 children), as well as the rural municipalities of East St. Paul (35 children) and West St. Paul (30 children) represent localities where the establishment of a 20- to 30-space French-language ELCC service could be justified.

Conversely, the municipality of St-Pierre-Jolys is a positive exception, with 56 spaces for 50 children (a ratio of 1.12), or more than 1 space per child. On the other end of the spectrum, several municipalities have a ratio of 0.00, such as De Salaberry (100 children and 0 space). In the rural municipalities of Hanover (75 children), Emerson-Franklyn (25), or the municipalities of Steinbach (95) and Niverville (80), there is no space in French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) services, even though they account for a total of 275 children. These localities would need French-language ELCC services of 50 to 70 spaces to reach the target ratio of 7 spaces per 10 children.

Table 4: *Census divisions and municipalities with at least 10 children, South East Area of Manitoba*

Census divisions		No. of spaces	No. of children	Ratio
Division No. 1 – Total		**0**	**95**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	Reynolds	0	15	**0.00**
	Alexander	0	15	**0.00**
	Stuartburn	0	10	**0.00**
	Whitemouth	0	10	**0.00**
	Pinawa	0	10	**0.00**
	Lac du Bonnet	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*25*	***0.00***
Division No. 2 – Total		**308**	**1,060**	**0.29**
Major municipalities	Taché	58	200	**0.29**
	Ste. Anne	60	175	**0.34**
	Ritchot	63	160	**0.39**
	La Broquerie	71	105	**0.68**
	De Salaberry	0	100	**0.00**
	Steinbach	0	95	**0.00**
	Niverville	0	80	**0.00**
	Hanover	0	75	**0.00**
	St-Pierre-Jolys	56	50	**1.12**
	Emerson-Franklin	0	20	**0.00**
Division No. 12 – Total		**12**	**130**	**0.09**
Major municipalities	Springfield	0	75	**0.00**
	Brokenhead	0	35	**0.00**
	Beausejour	0	15	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*12*	*5*	***2.40***
Division No. 13 - Total		**0**	**165**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	St. Andrews	0	40	**0.00**
	East St. Paul	0	35	**0.00**
	West St. Paul	0	30	**0.00**
	Selkirk	0	30	**0.00**
	St. Clements	0	25	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*5*	***0.00***
TOTAL – SOUTH EAST AREA		**320**	**1,450**	**0.22**

Within census division 12, there are a total of 130 children, but only 12 full-time spaces in French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) services. With a ratio of 0.09, this division is also a high-need area. The municipality of Beauséjour could host a home-based French-language ELCC service, but the rural municipality of Springfield would need a 50-space service to provide sufficient coverage of French-language ELCC services for children eligible for French-language education.

Southern Area

The Southern area includes census divisions 3, 9, 10, and 14, which is the area north of the American border and surrounding the city of Winnipeg on the west side. This area has 405 children and 20 spaces in French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) services. With a ratio of 0.05, it is a high-need area. Table 5 presents the profile of the area.

Table 5: *Census divisions and municipalities with at least 10 children, Southern Area of Manitoba*

Census divisions		No. of spaces	No. of children	Ratio
Division No.3 – Total		**20**	**190**	**0.11**
Major municipalities	Morden	0	40	**0.00**
	Montcalm	0	35	**0.00**
	Altona	0	30	**0.00**
	Winkler	0	30	**0.00**
	Morris	0	25	**0.00**
	Stanley	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*20*	*20*	***1.00***
Division No.9 – Total		**0**	**65**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	Portage la Prairie	0	25	**0.00**
	Grey	0	20	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*20*	***0.00***
Division No.10 – Total		**0**	**90**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	Macdonald	0	55	**0.00**
	Cartier	0	30	**0.00**
	St. François Xavier	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*0*	***0.00***
Division No.14 – Total		**0**	**60**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	Rockwood	0	35	**0.00**
	Woodlands	0	15	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*10*	***0.00***
TOTAL – SOUTHERN AREA		**20**	**405**	**0.05**

There is only one French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) service in this area, located in St. Jean Baptiste (division 3). Otherwise, all the major municipalities show a ratio of 0.00, given the absence of spaces in French-language ELCC services. The municipalities of Morden, Altona, and Winkler, as well as the rural municipalities of Montcalm, Macdonald, Cartier, and Rockwood, would each need a 20- to 35-space service to meet their needs.

South West Area

The South West area groups the census divisions from Brandon to Saskatchewan, along the United States border. There are 114 spaces in French-language ELCC services and 480 children in this area. This represents a ratio of 0.24, which is still far from the 0.40 threshold (average needs). It is still the area in Manitoba with the highest number of spaces per child. Table 6 presents the data for this area.

Table 6: *Census divisions and municipalities with at least 10 children, South West Area of Manitoba*

Census divisions		No. of spaces	No. of children	Ratio
Division No.4 – Total		**86**	**110**	**0.78**
Major municipalities	Lorne	86	75	**1.15**
	Argyle	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*25*	***0.00***
Division No. 5 - Total		**0**	**30**	**0.00**
Division No. 6 - Total		**0**	**20**	**0.00**
Division No. 7 - Total		**28**	**270**	**0.10**
Major municipalities	Brandon	0	155	**0.00**
	Cornwallis	0	80	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*28*	*35*	***0.80***
Division No. 8 - Total		**0**	**50**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	Norfolk-Treherne	0	40	**0.00**
	WestLake- Gladstone	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*0*	***0.00***
TOTAL – SOUTH WEST AREA		**114**	**480**	**0.24**

The main French-speaking community in the area is the village of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, located in the rural municipality of Lorne, which features an 86-space French-

language ELCC service. This service ensures that census division 4 is the only one with a satisfactory ratio (0.78) of spaces per child.

Division 7, which includes the city of Brandon, has 235 children, but only a single French-language ELCC service, located in Shilo (28 spaces). This is quite insufficient, and the 0.10 ratio remains far from the threshold needed to ensure adequate coverage.

In the other divisions (5, 6, and 8), there are a total of 100 children, but they are very dispersed. The rural municipality of Norfolk-Treherne is the only one in these three divisions with a certain concentration of children (40 children). A French-language ELCC service for 28 children would be necessary to meet the needs of the municipality. In the other municipalities, setting up French-language family-based ELCC services would be appropriate.

Western Area

The Western area extends from the Saskatchewan border to lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis. There are 240 children, but no full-time French-language ELCC spaces. Table 7 presents the data for French-language ELCC spaces and children in the area's census divisions and municipalities.

Table 7: *Census divisions and municipalities with at least 10 children, Western Area of Manitoba*

Census divisions		No. of spaces	No. of children	Ratio
Division No. 15 – Total		**0**	**100**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	Ellice-Archie	0	35	**0.00**
	Prairie View	0	30	**0.00**
	Neepawa	0	20	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*15*	***0.00***
Division No. 16 – Total		**0**	**25**	**0.00**
Major municipality	Russell-Binscarth	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*15*	***0.00***
Division No. 17 – Total		**0**	**105**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	Dauphin	0	45	**0.00**
	Ste. Rose	0	25	**0.00**
	Lakeshore	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*25*	***0.00***
Division No. 20 – Total		**0**	**10**	**0.00**
TOTAL – WESTERN AREA		**0**	**240**	**0.00**

Even though no French-language ELCC spaces are available, three municipalities and rural municipalities have at least 30 children. French-language ELCC services with 20 to 32 spaces in these municipalities could be considered to meet the needs of families.

Central Area

This area is located north of Winnipeg and extends from the Ontario border to Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis. A 32-space French-language service is located in this area. With 115 children, the 0.28 ratio means the area still has high needs. Table 8 shows the data for this area.

Table 8: *Census divisions and municipalities with at least 10 children, Central Area of Manitoba*

Census divisions		No. of spaces	No. of children	Ratio
Division No. 18 - Total		**32**	**85**	**0.38**
Major municipalities	St. Laurent	32	40	**0.80**
	Winnipeg Beach	0	10	**0.00**
	Rest of the division	*0*	*35*	***0.00***
Division No. 19 - Total		**0**	**30**	**0.00**
TOTAL – CENTRAL AREA		**32**	**115**	**0.28**

The municipality with the most children is St. Laurent. With 40 children and a 32-space French-language ELCC service, it is a properly served area.

Aside from this municipality, the scattering of children outside of Winnipeg Beach makes it difficult for large French-language childcare services to cover the area. Home-based French-language childcare services in these areas would be more likely to meet the area's needs effectively.

Northern Area

Northern Manitoba includes the three census divisions located north of Lakes Winnipeg and Winnipegosis. There are 130 children and 20 spaces in French-language ELCC services, which corresponds to a ratio of 0.15, or 1 space for 7 children. Table 9 presents the data for this area.

Table 9: *Census divisions and municipalities with at least 10 children, Northen Area of Manitoba*

Census division		No. of spaces	No. of children	Ratio
Division No. 21 – Total		**0**	**45**	**0.00**
Major municipalities	The Pas	0	15	**0.00**
	Kelsey	0	10	**0.00**
	Flin Flon	0	10	**0.00**
Division No. 22 – Total		**20**	**75**	**0.27**
Major municipality	Thompson	20	50	**0.40**
Division No. 23 – Total		**0**	**10**	**0.00**
TOTAL – NORTHERN AREA		**20**	**130**	**0.15**

The only French-language ELCC service in the Northern area is in the municipality of Thompson. With 50 children, this municipality reaches a certain level of coverage, but it is still insufficient to be considered an adequately served area. Approximately 15 additional spaces are needed in this municipality to reach a ratio of 0.70. The other municipalities and rural municipalities have too few children to justify anything more than a French-language family-based ELCC service.

5- Conclusion

This study aimed to identify the areas and municipalities in Manitoba that experience a shortage of French-language early learning and childcare services. These are areas where the number of available spaces is very insufficient compared to the needs of eligible children 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 the province.

Overall, Francophone families in Manitoba do not have access to enough full-time French-language spaces in French-language ELCC services. With a ratio of 0.16 spaces per child eligible for French-language education aged 0 to 4, coverage is barely 1 space for every 6 children. This represents a shortage of 3,734 spaces across the province.

Although most missing spaces are in the city of Winnipeg (a shortage of 2,266 spaces), several other areas could benefit from opening new French-language ELCC services. The South East area (shortage of 695 spaces) and the Southern area (shortage of 232 spaces) are the main areas where new French-language ELCC services should be considered.

Obviously, it is unrealistic to assume that every municipality can support viable French-language ELCC services, given the number of children eligible for French education. 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.

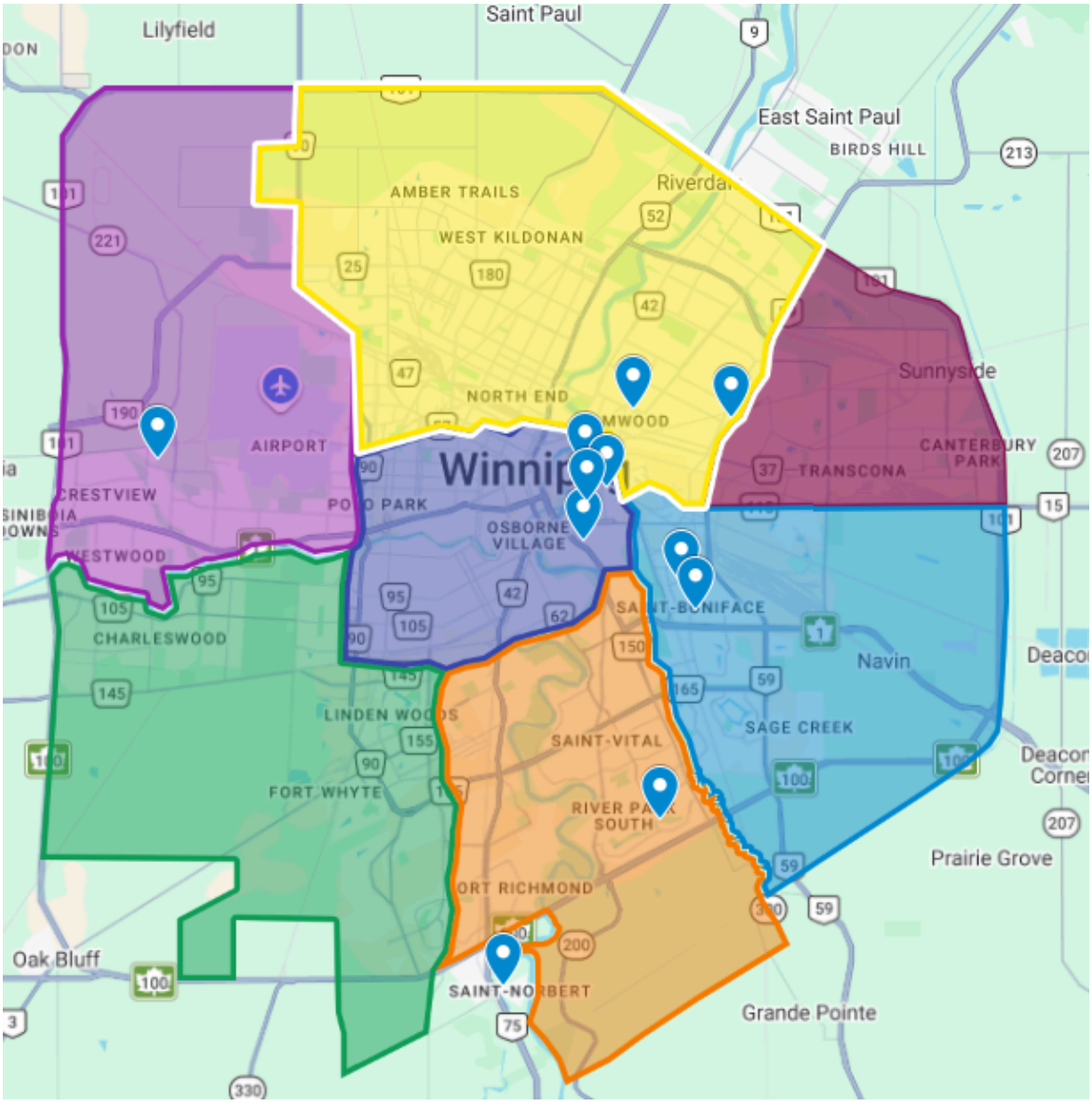
Appendix 1

French-language early learning and childcare (ELCC) services in Manitoba offering full-time spaces as of September 1, 2025

Municipality	Name of the French-language ELCC services	No. of available spaces
Winnipeg	Centre d'apprentissage des Bambins	40
	Centre Soleil inc.	24
	Le P'tit Bonheur	84
	Le P'tit Paradis	50
	Les Enfants Précieux	58
	Les Franco-Lions	16
	Les Petits Génies	36
	Les Tournesols de St. Vital	82
	Sage Creek (opening in September 2025)	74
	Espace pour grandir	80
Taché	Les Petits Génies Lorette	24
	Les Chouettes de Lorette	34
Thompson	Les Louveteaux	20
Ste. Anne	La Garderie Les Petits Amis	28
	La Garderie Les Petits Amis 2	32
Ste. Agathe	Le Coin magique	47
St. Pierre	Les Petites Grenouilles	56
St. Norbert	Les Toupies inc.	74
St. Laurent	Les P'tits Dorés	32
St. Jean Baptiste	Les Étoiles d'la Rouge	20
St. Georges	Les Petits Loups	12
Shilo	Les Amis de la Source	28
Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes	La Garderie Arc-en-ciel	86
La Broquerie	Les P'tits Brisous	71
Île-des-Chênes	Les Boutons d'Or	16
Total		**1,124**

Appendix 2

French-language ELCC sectors and services in the city of Winnipeg as of September 1, 2025

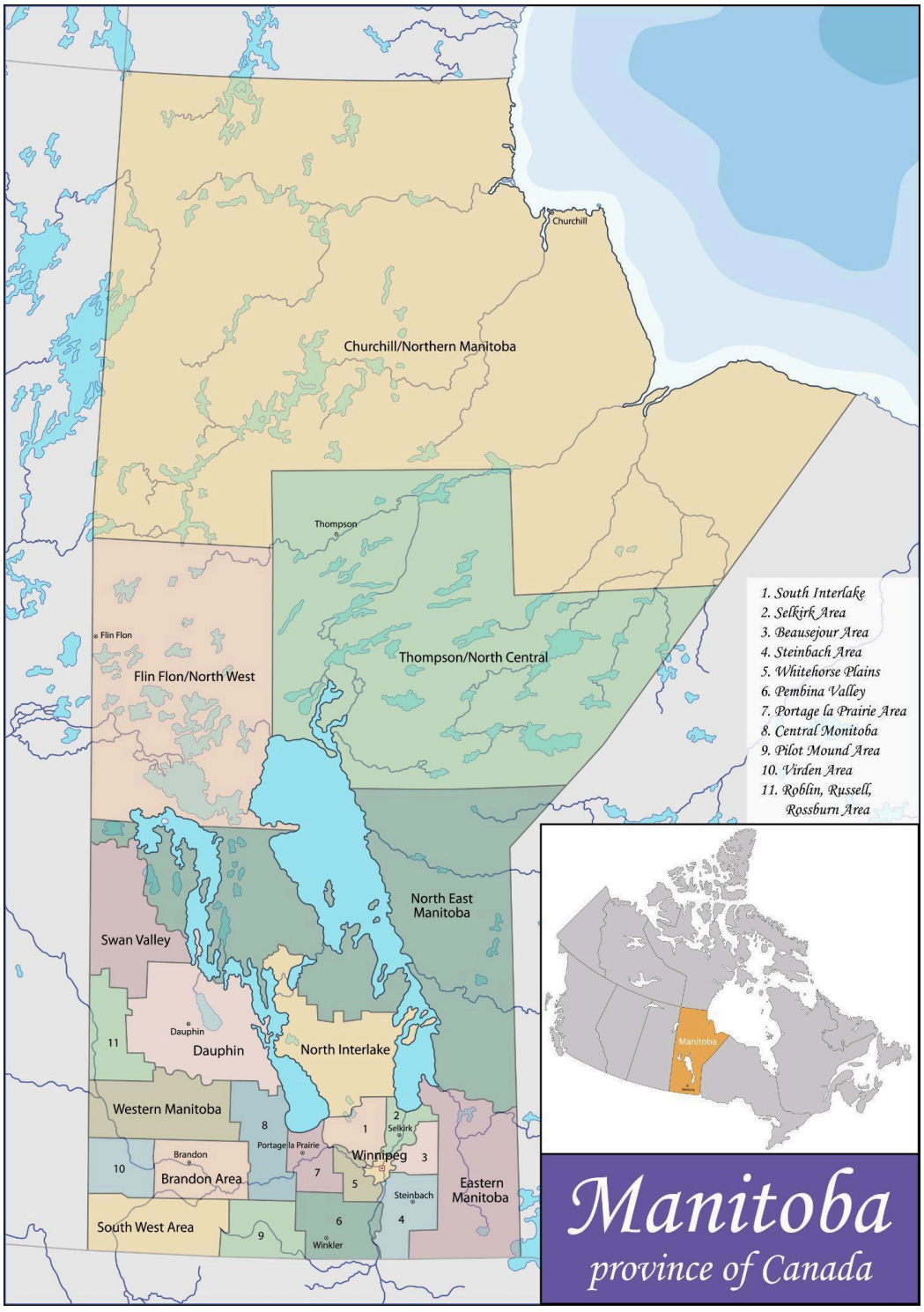


Caption

- Central
- North West
- Northern
- North East
- South East
- Southern
- South West
- French-language ELCC Service

Appendix 3

Manitoba census divisions



Source: ID 80520012 @ Volina | Dreamstime.com