

Children's Services

Overview on Francophone Licensed Child Care & Sector Growth

April 8, 2024

Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee (TFAAC)

Presenter: Kelly O'Gorman, Consultant, Children's Services

Purpose & Agenda

Purpose: The goal of today's presentation is to provide an overview on Children's Services and efforts to support growth and development in the Francophone licenced child care and early learning sector between 2016-2024.

Agenda:

1. Overview of Children's Services
2. Planning Context
3. Francophone Child Care Growth
4. French Language Services Plan - Highlights

Children's Services Overview

Toronto Children's Services (TCS) promotes access to high quality early learning, child care, and supports for families through a well planned and managed system.



Children's Services Program Service System

Toronto is the second largest early learning and child care system in Canada:

1,046 Licensed Child Care Centres, with capacity to serve almost **80,000** full time children; including **3** Indigenous-led licensed child care centres, and **30** Francophone child care operators

26 Licensed Home Child Care Agencies

Toronto Children's Services directly operates **39** licensed child care centres

555 Before-After School Programs

30,700 fee subsidies available to eligible families

250 EarlyON Child and Family Centres, including **3 Francophone** EarlyON sites

19 organizations delivering Every Child Belongs supports for children with extra supports needs including **1 Francophone Agency**



Planning Context

TCS Growth Strategy

Growth Strategy Vision

Build capacity to meet demand:

Enough licensed, centre-based child care spaces for 50% of children under the age of 4, and the capacity required to operate those spaces

Support a thriving workforce:

Good jobs that attract and retain child care professionals

Improve affordability for families:

Public investments that keep parent fees affordable for families across all income groups, and fee subsidies for families in financial need



*Build capacity to meet demand
Improve affordability for families
Support a thriving workforce*



TORONTO'S
LICENSED CHILD CARE
GROWTH STRATEGY
For children under 4
2017-2026



April 2017

Francophone Population – Access to Child Care

While the overall target in the Growth Strategy is to have an access rate of 50%, children age 0-4 with French as a mother tongue currently have a higher access rate than the overall child population in Toronto.

Category	French	Overall
Number of infant, toddler, and preschool (ITP) spaces	1,060	42,401
Number of children age 0-4	2,325	123,550
Percentage of ITP spaces available for children (age 0-4)	46%	34%

Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)



In March 2022, the **Federal government** signed the CWELCC Agreement with the Province with aims to lower child care fees for eligible children, improve wages, and increase access to quality child care programs by 2026.



The **Province** is accountable to the Federal government and created an Action Plan that articulates the components of the CWELCC Agreement (including Directed Growth and Access and Inclusion Framework).



The Province directs **Service System Managers** on the implementation of the Action Plan through guidelines, memos, the Access and Inclusion Framework, and funding and space allocations.

CWELCC – Directed Growth

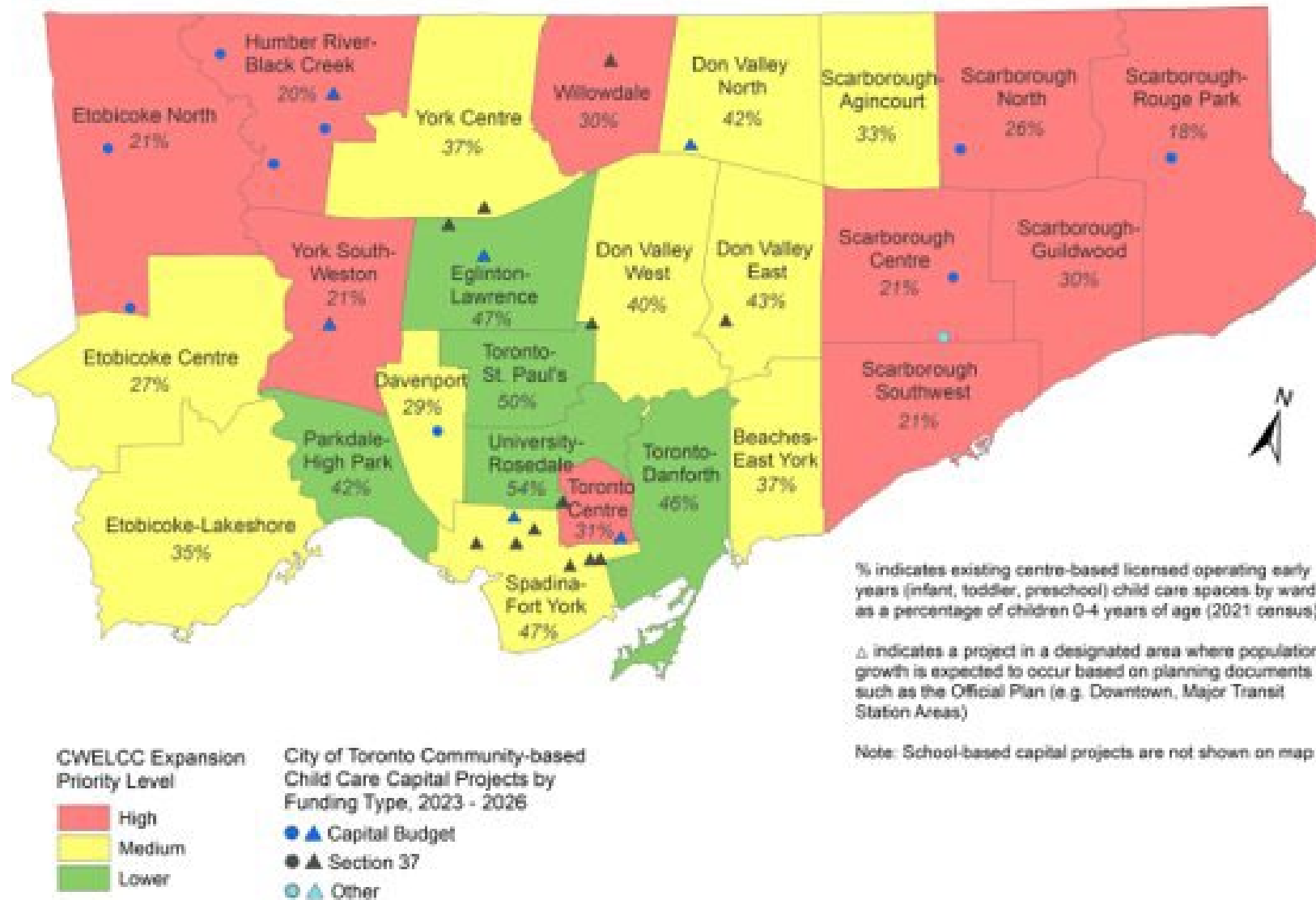
- The Province has required service system managers to create **Directed Growth Plans** to ensure CWELCC-funded spaces expand in high priority areas.
- Province has given city CWELCC space allocation for 2022-2026 to support expansion in community and in school-based centres.

Five Year (2022-2026) CWELCC Space Allocations for Toronto (as of May 2023)	
Community Space Expansion	13,627
School Space Expansion	4,550
Total New CWELCC Spaces over 5 years	18,177

CWELCC – Directed Growth (cont'd)

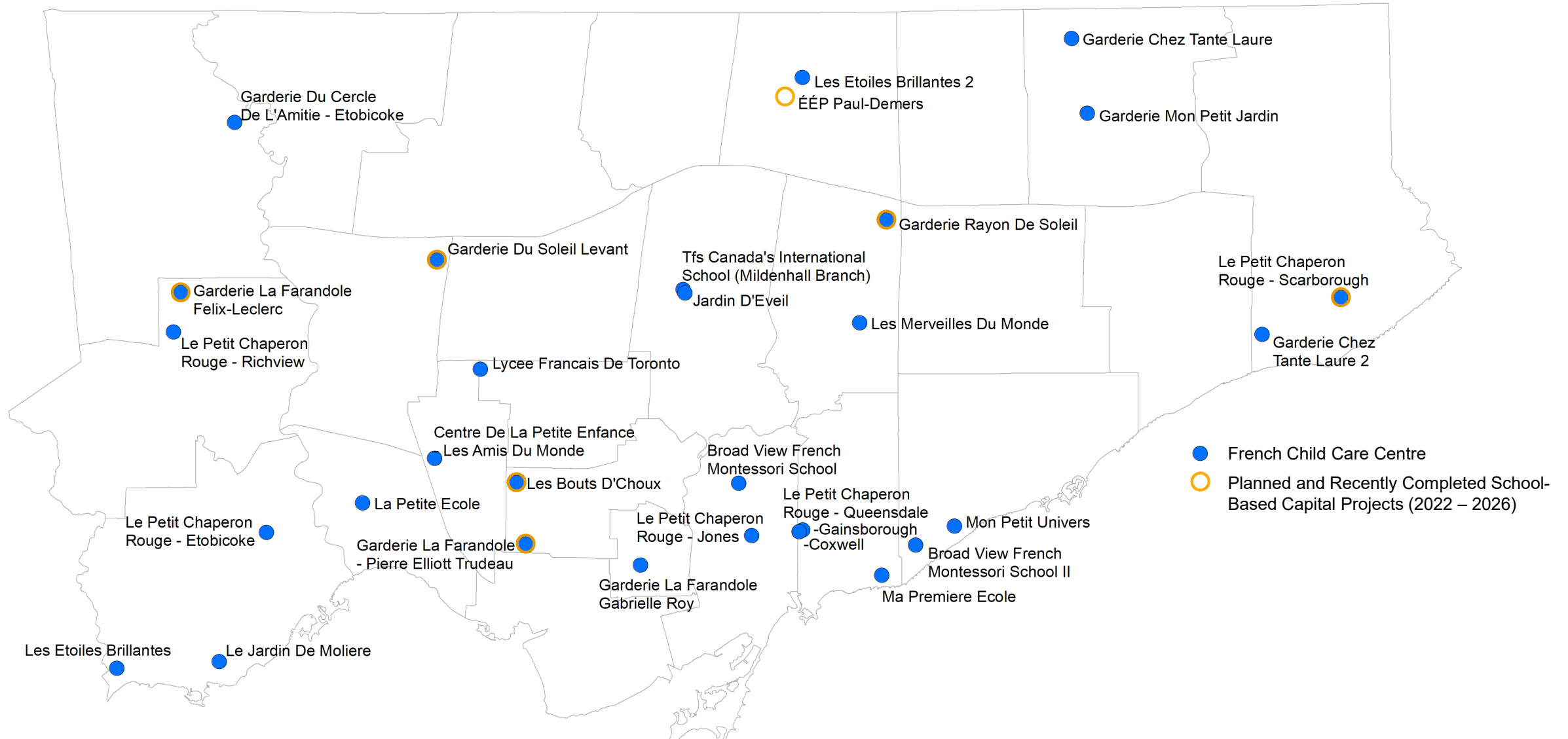
- To support CWELCC expansion planning and guide the Directed Growth Plan for the City, TCS developed priority levels for each ward based on the percentage of spaces available to children age 0-4 and the presence of the following priority groups:
 - **Francophone families,**
 - low-income families;
 - children with extra support needs; Indigenous families,
 - Black families;
 - other diverse families; and
 - newcomer families.
- While expansion is occurring across the City through CWELCC, the above priorities levels support ongoing expansion planning and approvals.

CWELCC Expansion Priority Levels

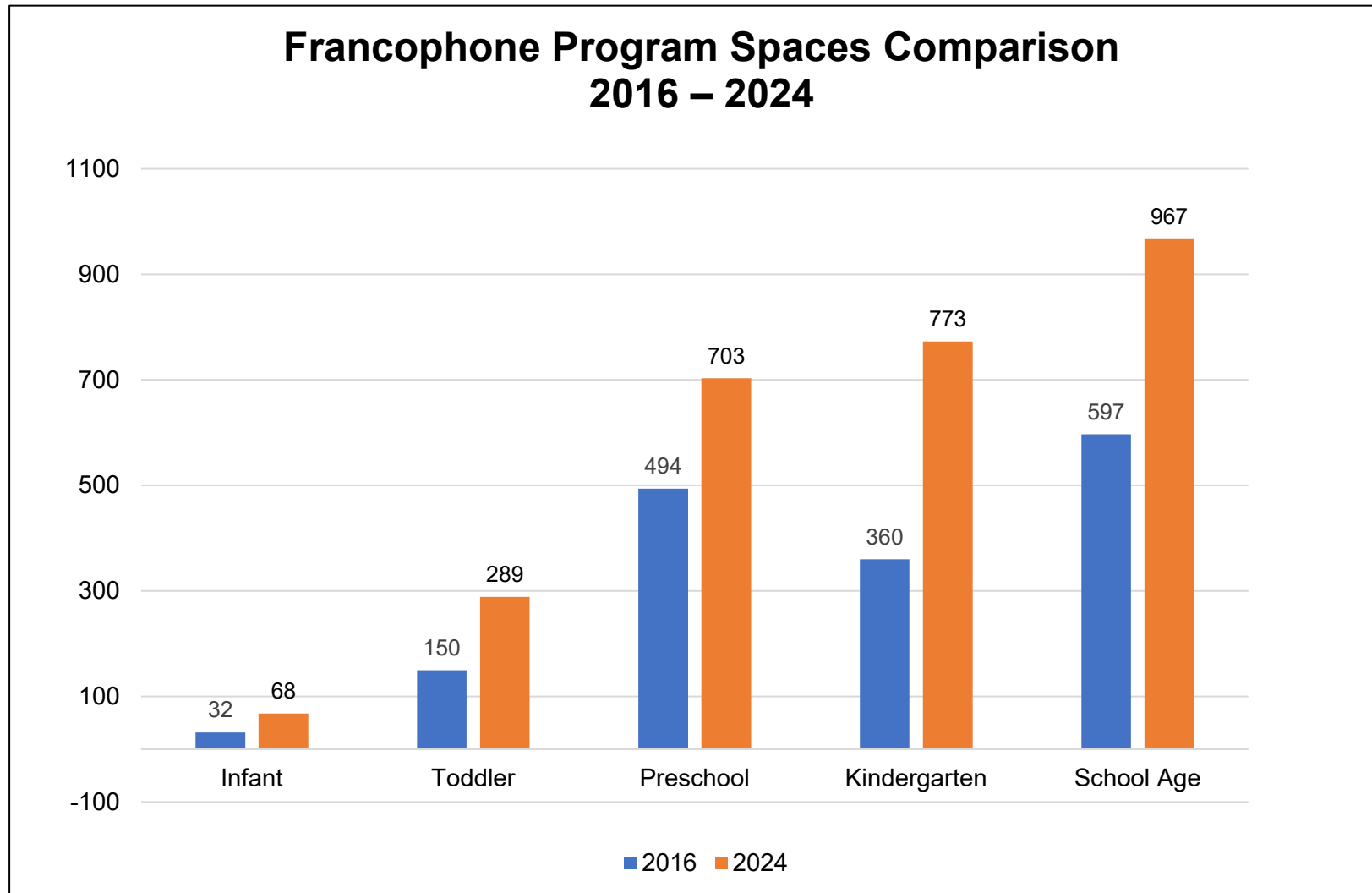


Francophone Child Care Growth

Francophone Child Care Locations

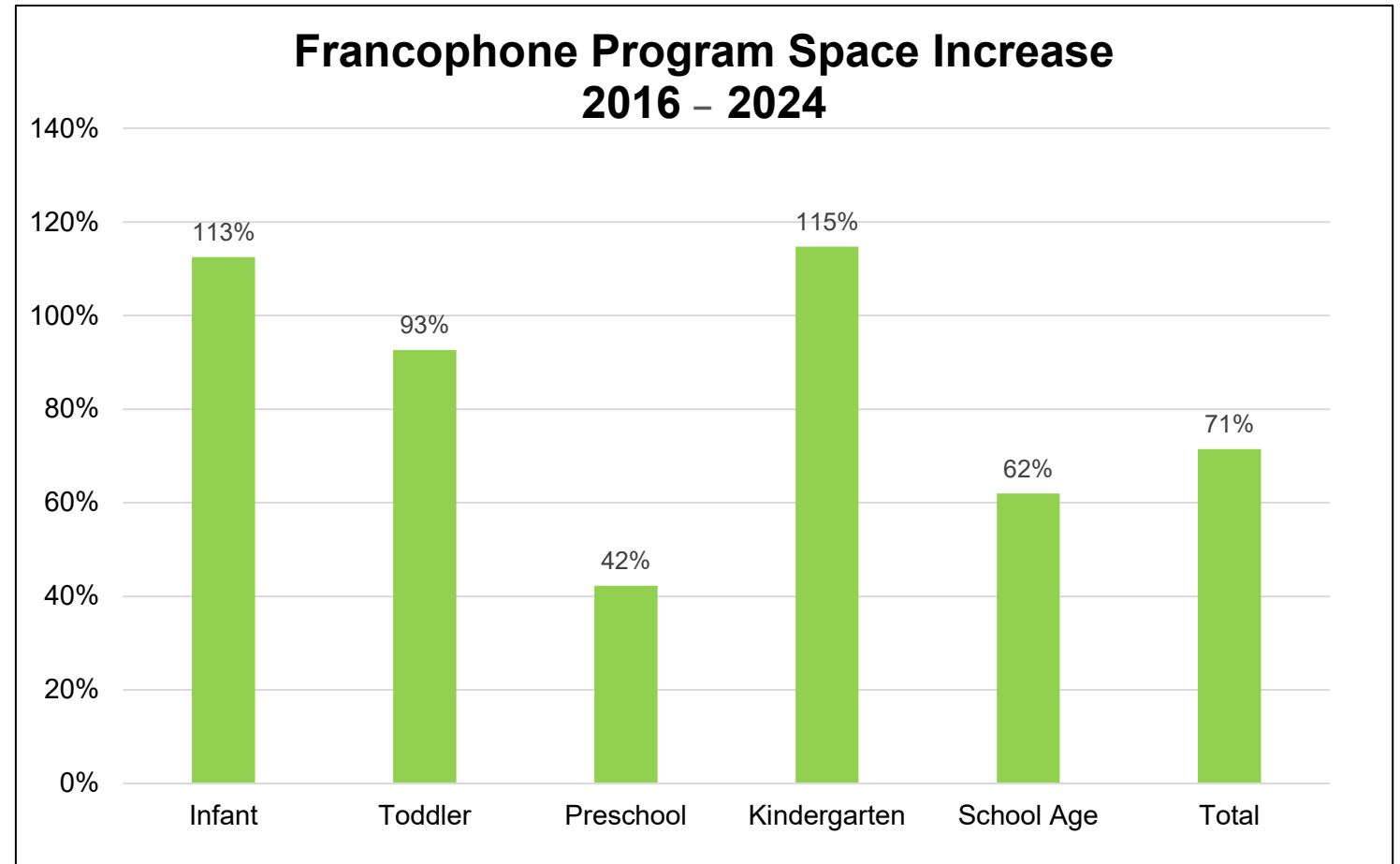


Growth in Francophone Spaces, 2016 - 2024



Program Space Increase in Francophone child care centres

Between 2016 and 2024, operating capacity in Francophone child care centres increased from **1,633** to **2,800** spaces.



Planned Francophone School Expansion through CWELCC

- 189 net new spaces are planned or completed in 6 Francophone Schools in Toronto.
- This expansion is supported through Ministry of Education Early Year's Capital Program funding and is approved as part of the City's school-based CWELCC expansion allocation



French Language Service Plan

French Language Services (FLS) Plan

The Provincial government requires all municipalities who deliver a program on behalf of the Province to ensure Francophone families can access service in their language.

The FLS is a plan that shows achievements in meeting this goal.



FLS - Achievements | Child and Family Centres/EarlyON



- French Language Conference held in March 2023 for Francophone staff in Child Care and Early ON programs
- Centre francophone du Grand Toronto (CFGTT) received an Innovation Grant: ***Reimagining Early Years programming for Black Children and Families*** to extend the Francophone just program at the Spadina location

FLS Achievements | Special Need Resourcing

- In 2023, Special Need Resourcing has been provided to over 96 families
- Resource Consultation Staff from Centre of Francophone provided 14 capacity building sessions to both EarlyOn staff and Parents
- Every Child Belongs Resource Consultation Staff (RCS) supported Childcare centres with numerous individual, program-level, and training consultations



Discussion & Questions?

MERCI!