



# **Child Care Services in BC: No Reason to Cut, Every Reason to Build**

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## 2004 International Rankings

### “Average” Family Benefit Package Value (Kershaw, 2006)

Country	\$ per family per month
Austria	658
UK	380
Norway	340
Australia	337
Sweden	273
US	184
<b>BC/Canada</b>	<b>165 *</b>
Japan	103

\* Child care fees: ‘family benefit’ → ‘family penalty’

## In spite of over 20 years of:

- **consistent research findings** (e.g. healthy child development, minimum 2:1 economic returns)
- **international comparisons**
- **lived experience,**

## Quality child care in Canada (outside of Quebec) **is:**

- **not available or affordable** for most families
- **nor does it pay adequate wages and benefits** to most workers.
- **NOT A SYSTEM**

# Example of Publicly Funded Systems - Education

Quality  
Univer  
System

Public \$

Parent Fees

0%

100%

Number of Children

Notes:

Publicly funded education systems across Canada provide legislated, universal entitlement to children from kindergarten to grade 12.  
All staff and programs meet provincial standards



# Our Public Investment in Education...

## OECD ranking (per Min of Ed 2007/08 Service Plan):

- 41 countries (including U.S.) & 10 provinces
- **BC 2<sup>nd</sup> in Canada** (behind Alberta)
- Overall, **BC 3<sup>rd</sup> (Reading), 5<sup>th</sup> (Math), 6<sup>th</sup> (Science & Problem-Solving)**

# Child Care System Implementation Model

Present Day

Exp Gap

Q Gap

Current  
Public Funding

Current  
Parent Fees

AFF Gap

Affordable Parent Fees  
(Average 20% of total cost)

Capital Funding

Quality  
Univers  
System

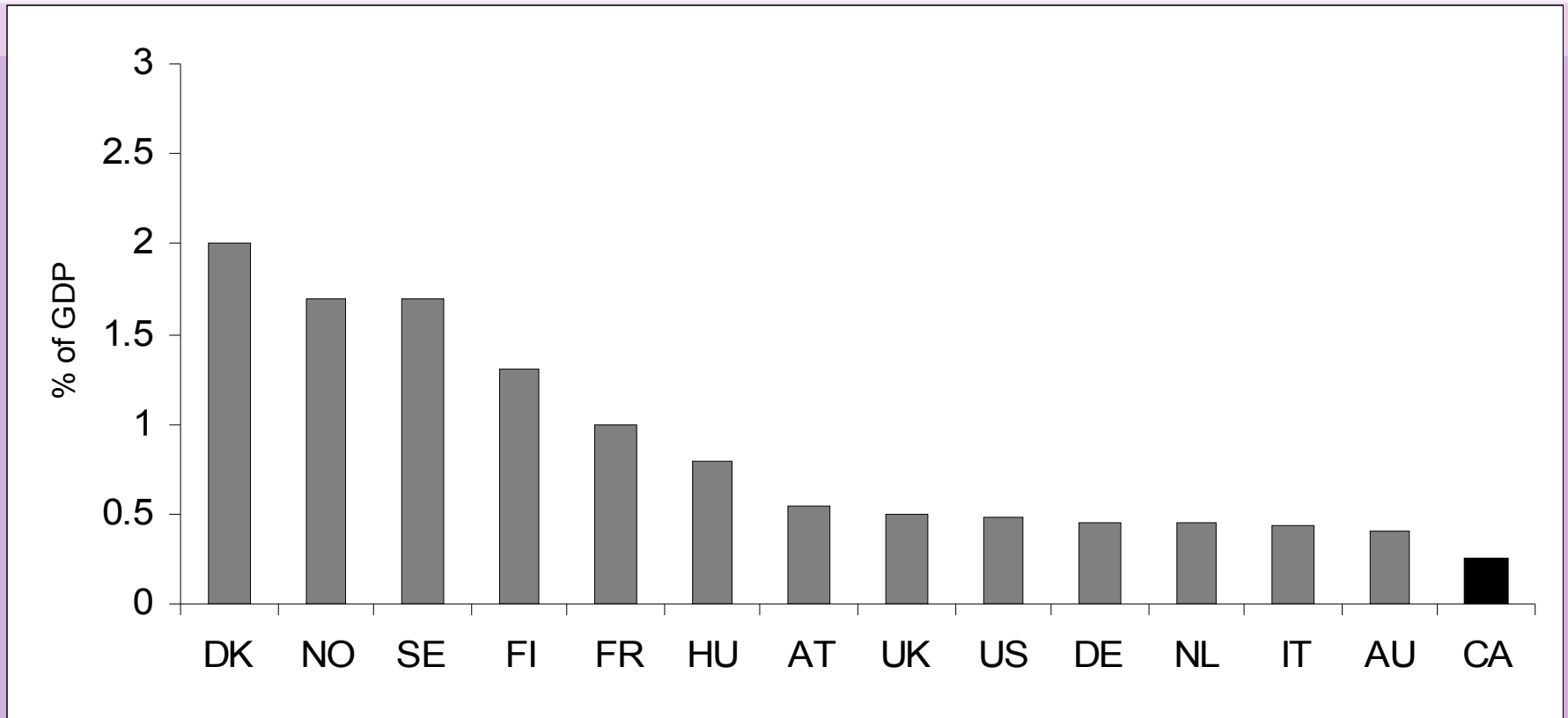
100%  
Number  
of Chil

Notes:

1. Q Gap = public funding gap for quality (particularly caregiver wages and benefits, and training)
2. Aff Gap = public funding gap for affordability (parent fees)
3. Exp Gap = public funding gap for expansion (additional spaces, ultimately with public funding to desired levels of quality and affordability).

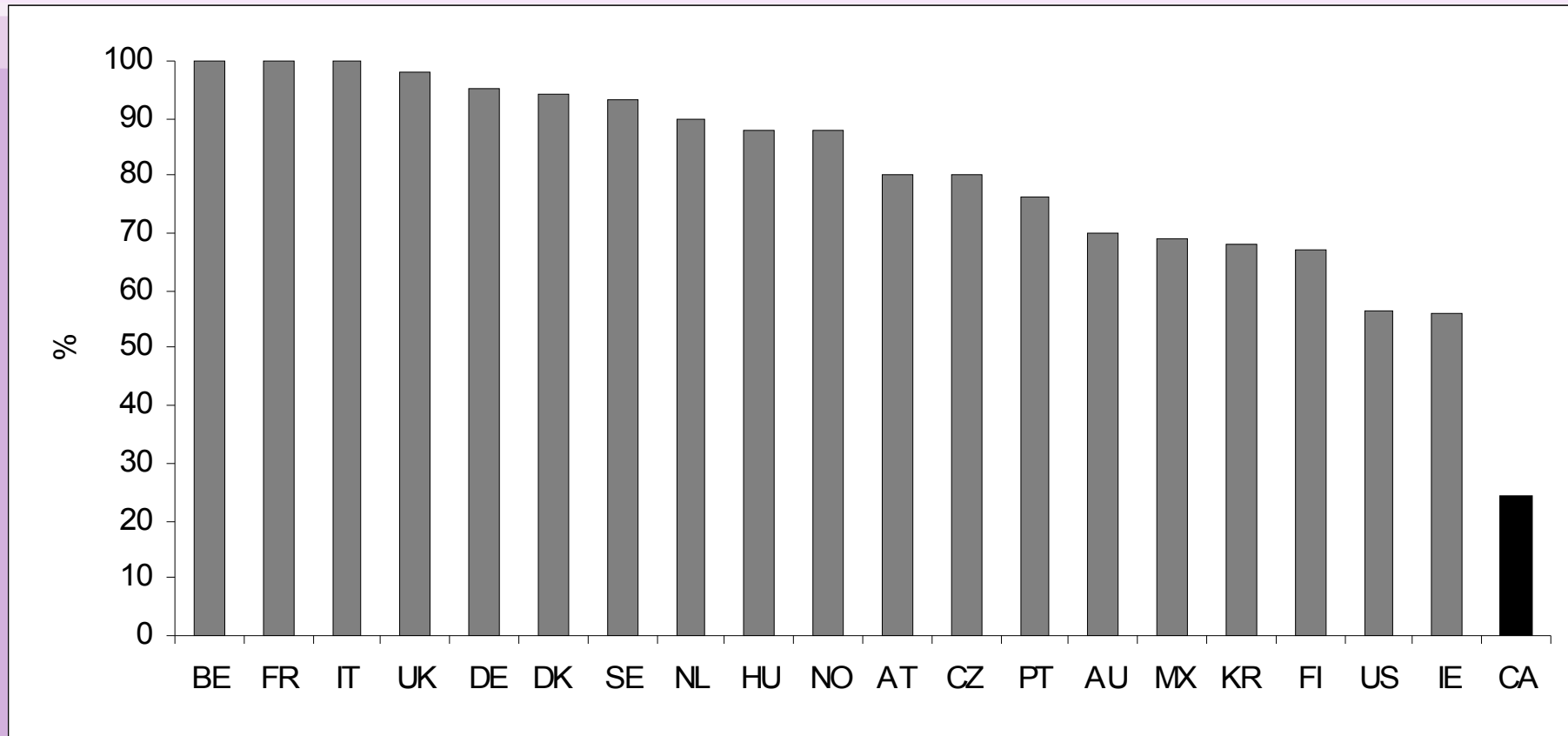


# Spending on ELCC programs: How does Canada compare?



Data source: OECD. (2006). *Starting Strong II: Early Childhood Education and Care*. Annex C, pg. 246.

# Rate of access to ELCC programs for 3-6 year olds



Data source: OECD. (2006). *Starting Strong II: Early Childhood Education and Care. Country Profiles.*

AU, CZ, FI, HU, NL, UK – Estimated (averaged across ages 3-6)

DE – Estimated (averaged across ABL and NBL)

CA – Children 0-6 in child care including regulated family day care





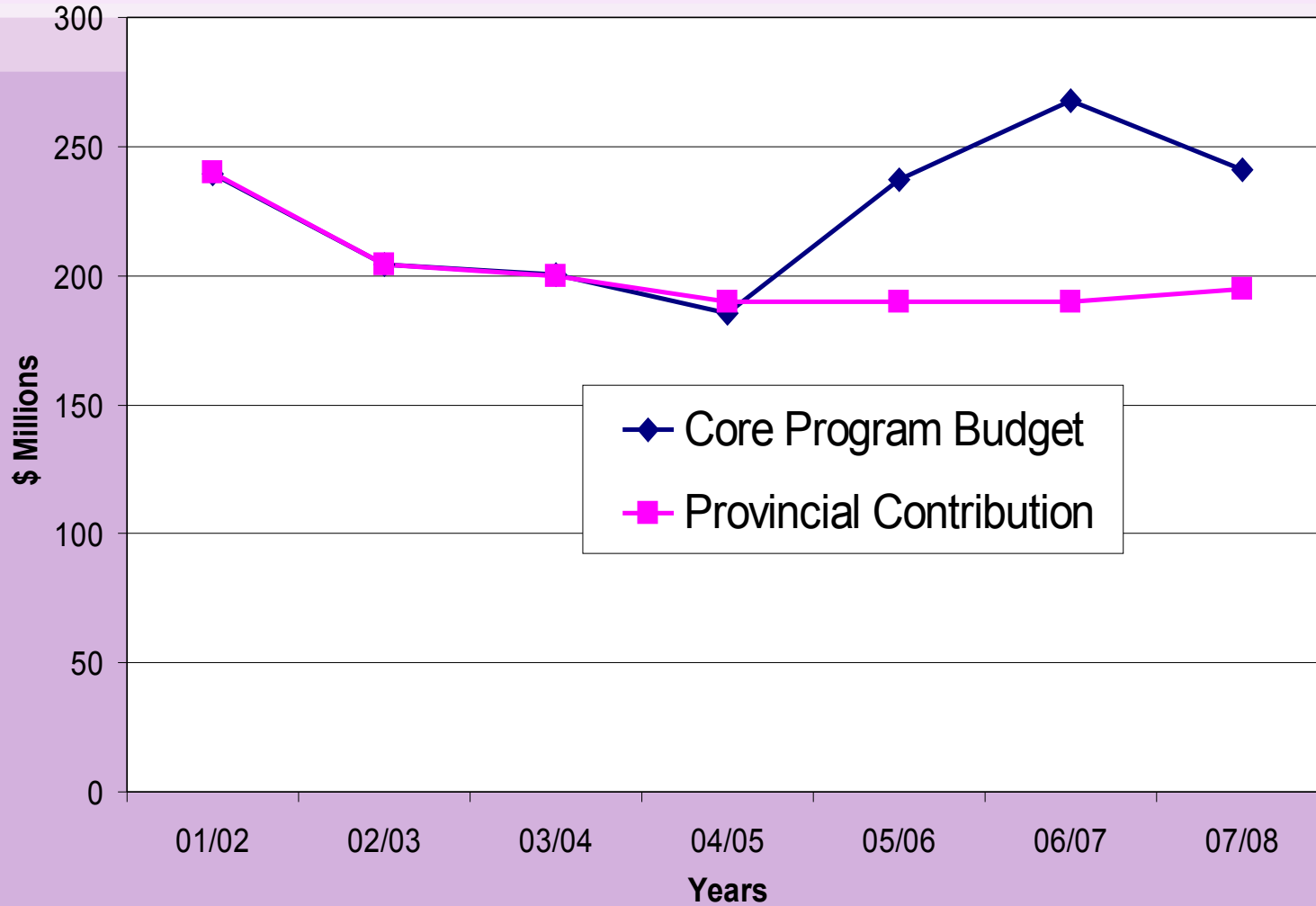
## To close the public funding gaps...

**Phase in \$1.2 billion (net annual) direct funding of regulated services with accountability for:**

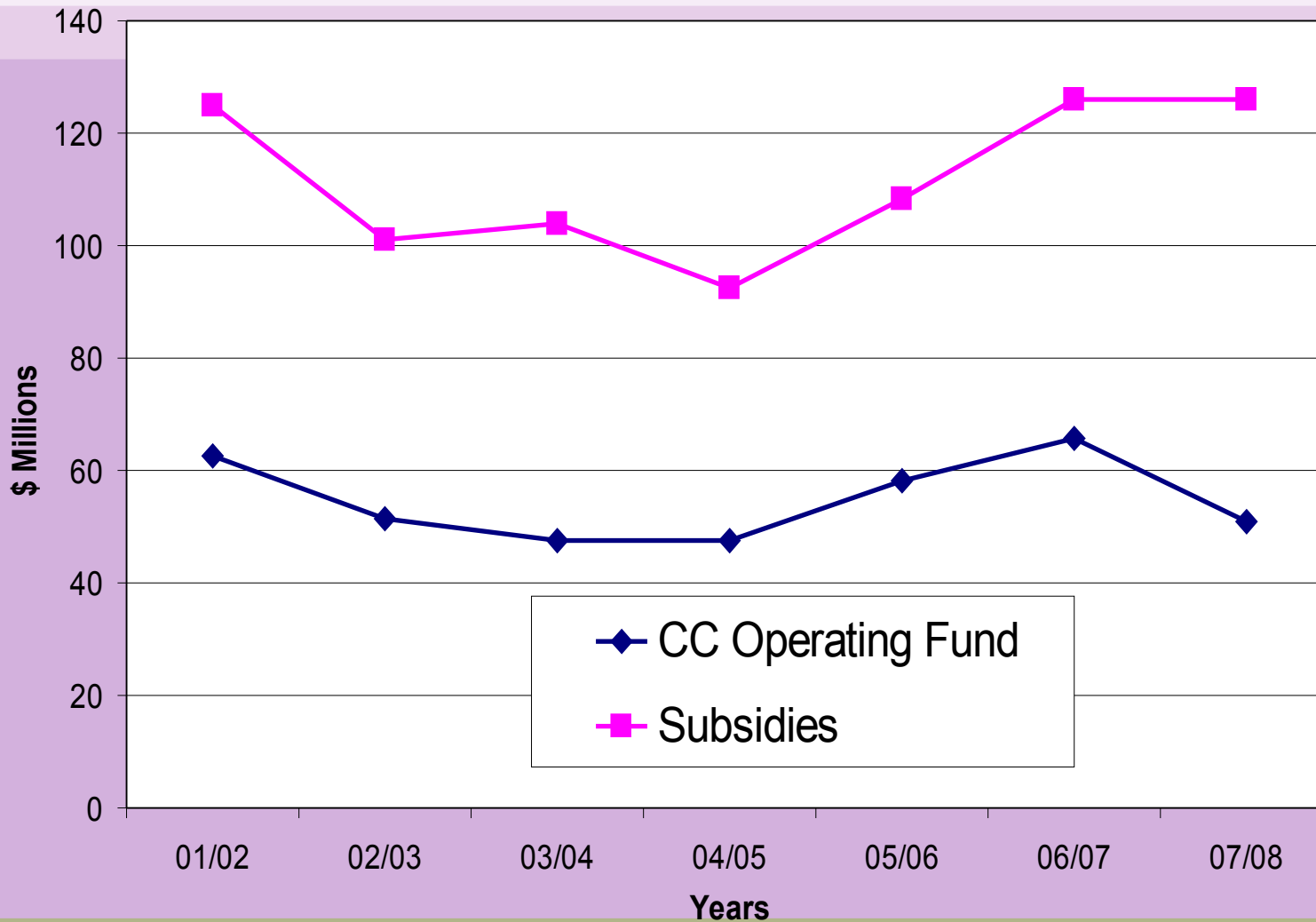
- Higher wages (and training) (quality gap)
- Lower fees (affordability gap)
- More spaces - inclusive, community-owned (expansion gap)

*Consistent with research, OECD recommendations, CCAAC's strategy, and Coalition child care plan*

# But, no progress in BC



# Instead, gaps are growing ...



## Even though our economy is strong:

- Federally, budget surpluses since 1997 and
- Highest employment and real GDP growth in G7 countries (1997-2005)

### In 2005/06:

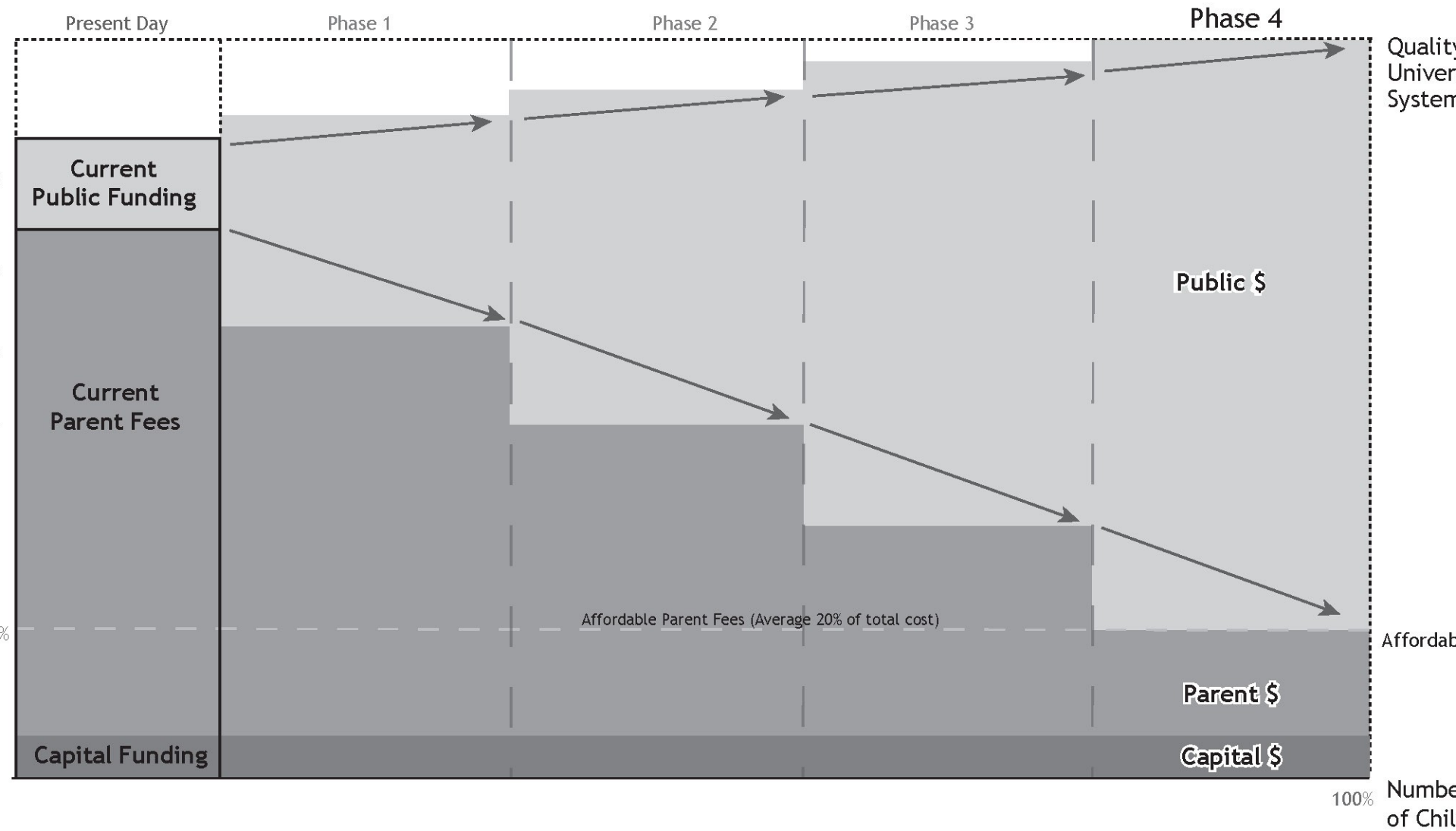
- Federal surplus                      \$13 billion
- Total PT surplus                      \$13 billion (BC \$3 billion)
- **Total Surplus                      \$ 26 billion**

## Despite these financial strengths:

- **44%** of BC businesses *face labour shortages that restrict their ability to meet demand.* (CGA-BC)
- **1 in 6** children live in poverty Canada-wide
- Almost **1 in 4** in BC – highest in Canada (**23.5%**)
- Quebec – only province with consistent decline in child poverty rates since 1997 (when family policy, including child care, introduced)

# Child Care System Implementation Model

## Full Implementation



Notes:  
 Full Implementation of the model means that, by the end of phase 3 a quality, affordable child care space is available for all those who need or want it on a part time, full-time or drop-in basis in a regulated family home or centre.

# **Child Care System Implementation Model**

Developed by: Lynell Anderson, B. Comm, CGA  
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