



What do the Numbers say?

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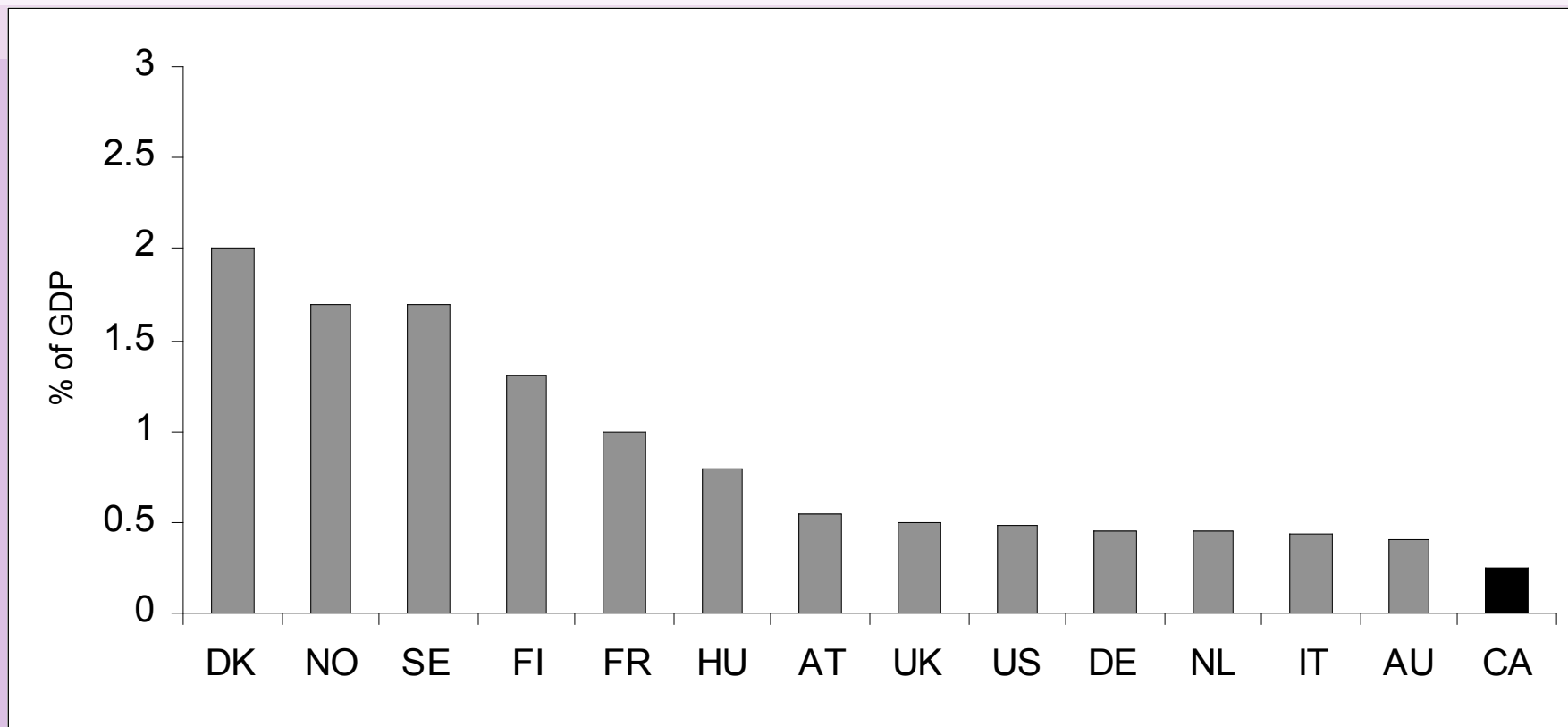
In spite of over 20 years of:

- consistent research findings
- international comparisons
- lived experience,

Quality child care in BC (outside of Quebec) is not available or affordable for most families, nor does it pay adequate wages and benefits to most workers.



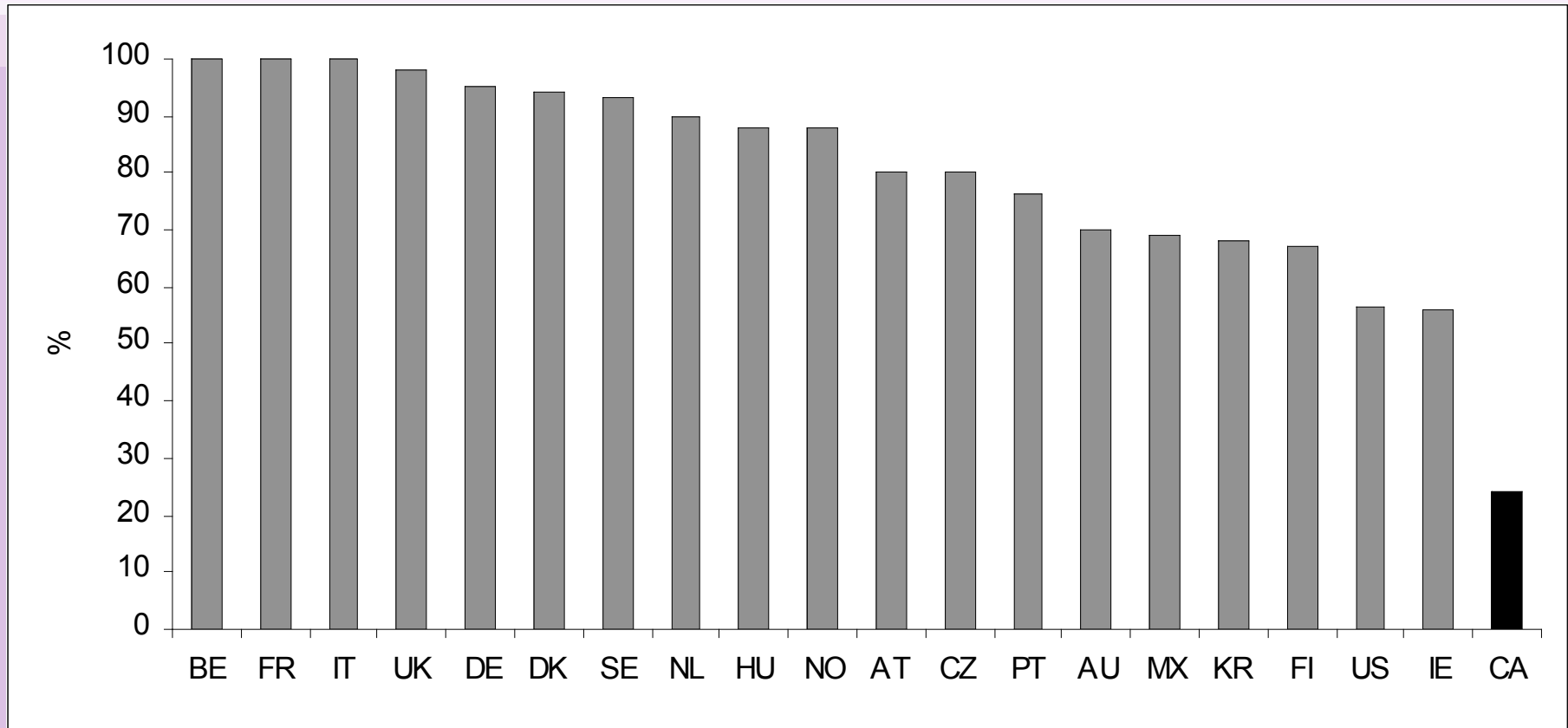
Spending on ELCC programs: How does Canada compare?



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



Our economy:

- 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:

- 1 in 6 children live in poverty Canada-wide
- Almost 1 in 4 in BC (23.5%)
- Quebec – only province with consistent decline in child poverty rates since 1997 (when family policy, including child care, introduced)



BC Child Care Community says...

“With or without federal funds’ → build a system”

The numbers show.... \$1.2 billion and we can afford it!



But, but, but.....

1. *“Province is maintaining its contribution...”*
 - In 2002, \$240 million provincial contribution to child care programs
 - By 2006, provincial contribution reduced by \$50 million → replaced by federal funds
 - Now that federal funds reduced, BC not replacing
 - **Overall, no growth in child care program investment since 2002**



But, but, but.....

2. *"It's the feds fault"*

- It's a question of choices and priorities
- CCRR's **cut** by **\$11 million** (\$14 → \$3 million)

Meanwhile

- **\$12 million in early learning grants announced** for school districts



But, but, but.....

3. *“BC’s surplus might disappear”*
 - Current projections indicate ongoing surpluses
 - Investing in child care will help the 44% of BC businesses who “face labour shortages that restrict their ability to meet demand.” (CGA-BC)
 - Investing in quality child care → **strengthens** our economy