

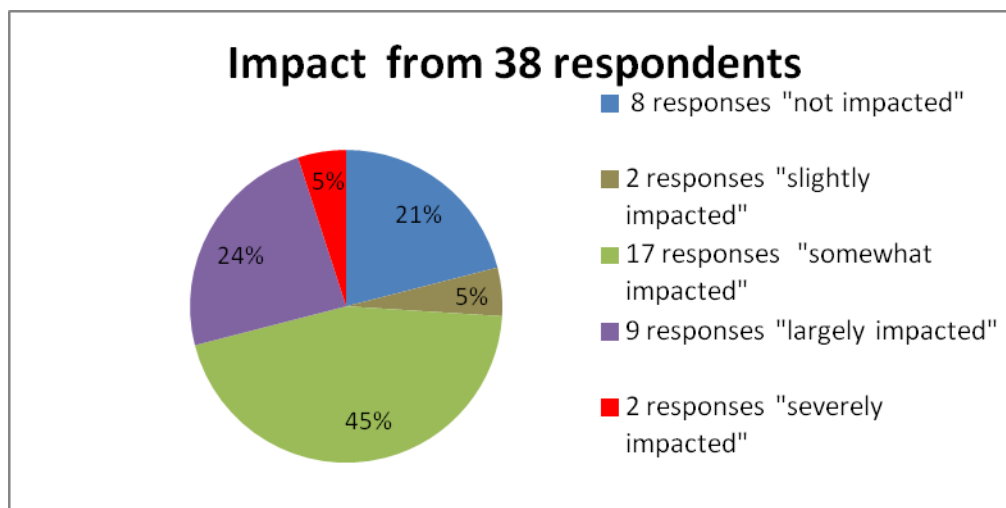
Summary of Feedback from December 2010 & January 2011 Niagara Child Care Sector Geographic Meetings

Attendance:

Meeting Location & Date	# of Participants
Niagara Falls Dec 1	14
Thorold Dec 7	11
Grimsby Dec 8	11
Fort Erie Jan 11	8
Welland Jan 12	12
TOTAL	57

- On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning “not impacted at all” and 5 meaning “severely impacted”, please quantify below what impact Full Day Kindergarten has had on your centre?

# of responses and location	1	2	3	4	5
	Not impacted at all		Somewhat impacted		Severely
Welland	5	1	2		
Grimsby			3	2	
Fort Erie	2		4		
Niagara Falls	1		6	3	1
St. Catharines/ Thorold		1	2	4	1



Summary of Small Group Discussions

Four questions were asked in small groups:

1. What does child care look like in this community here? What have been the impacts to this community specifically in regard to FDK?
2. Let's talk about what's happening in your centres currently and about your experiences have been in regard to FDK. What has the impact been to your centre due to FDK? (prompts: what are you mostly concerned with? Losing staff? Losing children? Remaining financially viable?)
3. Thinking even further down the road, by full implementation of FDK by Sept 2015, what will the impacts be to your child care program then?
4. Now let's talk about the future. With an additional 5% in Sept 2011 and an additional 29% in Sept 2012, bringing the total to 49% of children available to attend a FDK school, what impacts do you see to your child care program over the next 2 years?

Summary of responses:

- Wide range of current impact due to FDK across Niagara
- Wide range of concerns across Niagara
- Many conversations were of concern for safety and quality education for children enrolled in FDK (especially children with special needs, some children not ready for a full day of learning)
- There was a difference between the 3 sessions that occurred in Dec 2010 and the 2 sessions that were in Jan 2011. In December, people were still under the assumption that 3rd party providers were only allowed until end of 2012 school year and at that point school boards were going to be mandated to do Extended Day. In January, a new EL Memo suggested 3rd party agreements could remain beyond 2012 if Education Act amended. Participants in January sessions were generally more positive. In a couple of instances FDK had actually increased their CC program & led to increased staffing (i.e. YMCA & BGC).
- Major Issues/Concerns:
 - Recruitment & retention of QUALIFIED staff (split shifts are becoming more of a reality and very difficult to staff those shifts)
 - Not just losing staff to school boards, but to other jobs that offer more stability
 - Education of ECEs, the new Brock program. Likely grads of ECE program will enter into Bachelor program at Brock rather than going out into the field & job placements.

- Concerned that larger multi site operators will be able to weather the storm (can offer shift premiums & staff incentives) but smaller stand alones will have more difficult time staying afloat.
- Some instances noted of conflicts between FDK school & extended day program (cannot arrange room since teacher does it. Conflict for children using one thing during school hours and not allowed during extended day). But there were some examples where teachers & ETEs were working as equals & sharing resources
- If centres have to increase parent fees, parents will not be able to afford & only place their children in part time care. Affects financial viability of the entire CC system. Potential for growth in informal market.
- The system is still as chaotic as it was before, if not more so now. It is stressful for parents if their child attends FDK extended day in school & older or younger child has to attend a different child care centre.
- If child care becomes 0-3.8 years only, Colleges will need to educate ETEs for younger developmental programming.
- Discussion of FDK impact may become much larger than EL & CC sector – this has the potential to become a major women’s issue. Parents cannot afford CC & especially infant care. Too expensive = mom’s staying at home & lose out years on their careers.
- Next Steps:
 - We need to advocate for the CC sector & promote the quality programs that are being run...to parents & to school boards
 - Always refer to child care as extended day – no longer using child care language
 - Bring extended day curriculum to all centres, not just Phase 1 FDK centres
 - What has been helpful has been flexibility in licensing (license done 3 different ways)
 - Continue sharing information, demographics & mapping which will be imperative for future planning.