

Politics of ECEC: Governance

Below are key terms that will be helpful in understanding governance and politics of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

Ideology

- A set of beliefs and values that shape how we see and understand the world; is always changing and adapting
 - Political ideology influences how one views the role of government in society
 - Cultural ideologies (i.e. feminism, religion) shapes how one acts

Welfare State

- A system where the government is responsible to protect the health and well-being of its citizens; provides financial and social needs
 - Canada's welfare system is funded and carried by all levels of government through public education, employment insurance, the Canada Child Tax Benefit, housing, etc.

Government

- A system or group of leaders who control a state at a given time; creates and leads how policy and rules are enforced
 - Canada's government is a constitutional monarchy (Queen is the head of state & Prime minister is the head of government)
 - Has 3 levels of government
 - Federal (Canada)
 - Provincial/Territorial
 - Municipal (City)

Neoliberalism

- A political movement and view that is liberal with an emphasis in economic growth where it reduces the amount of government control in the economy
 - Reduces public funding in social services and favours privatization
 - In education, its purpose is given as investments in the development of children as a way for future earnings

Democracy

- A type of government that holds its ruling power in the people directly or elected leaders by citizens through voting
 - Canada has a parliamentary democracy where citizens elect political leaders for the federal (the whole country led by the Prime Minister), provincial/territorial (the whole province/territory led by a Premier), and municipal (a city led by a mayor) level by the chosen political party

Federalism

- A system of government where all power and ruling are divided between one larger government (federal) and other units of government (provinces/territories)
 - In Canada, the federal parliament and provinces work independently but also share certain areas of ruling, joining together upon an agreement