



Grandfamilies and Kinship Care in PEI: The Facts

A concise briefing for caregivers, professionals, community partners, funders and decision-makers.

36,860

children age 0 to 14 in Canada lived with one or more grandparents and no parent in the household in the 2021 Census.

553,855

children age 0 to 14 in Canada lived with at least one grandparent in 2021, mostly in multigenerational households.

12

grandparents raising grandchildren in rural PEI took part in the UPEI-led qualitative study *Stepping Up and Stepping In*.

2020

Building GRAND-Families Inc. incorporated as a PEI nonprofit after caregiver-led organizing that began around 2015.

What the PEI research found

- ☐ Grandfamilies can face health, financial and emotional pressure while also navigating systems that do not always recognize their family form.
- ☐ Caregiving arrangements can be linked to parental substance use, mental illness and other family crises, but every family's circumstances are different.
- ☐ Professionals can reduce stress by recognizing the actual caregiver, protecting privacy and helping families navigate services without repeated retelling of trauma.



What exists in PEI today

GACP

PEI's Grandparent and Alternative Care Provider Program has a temporary out-of-home care stream and a permanent Child Support Services stream for eligible children connected to Child Protection.

Family law and legal navigation

Caregivers may need help understanding custody, guardianship, child support, relative adoption, parent contact and court processes. Community Legal Information PEI and the Family Law Navigator are useful starting points.

Financial supports

Depending on the arrangement, supports can include the Canada Child Benefit, GACP financial support, tax measures and other child or disability benefits.

Health, school and community

A kinship placement can affect health consent, school authority, transportation, mental health, disability supports and access to recreation or respite.

No single PEI count captures every kinship family

Informal family care, GACP, guardianship, adoption and multigenerational households are counted in different systems. A lack of one administrative number does not mean the families are rare.

Use this fact sheet with

- ☐ school and health-service training
- ☐ grant and funding applications
- ☐ community presentations
- ☐ media background
- ☐ policy and program discussions