



# CHILD CARE IN THE 2018 ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

## IN A NUTSHELL

- In Ontario, municipalities and regions have a *big role* in child care – planning, administering, funding and sometimes operating early learning and child care programs.
- Local Councillors can be champions for child care programs: pushing for more municipal funds, and advocating to senior levels of government for more investment in child care. **Now more than ever, we need to elect champions for child care to all municipal and regional councils!**

## SHOW US THE MONEY

- The provincial government transfers child care funding to local governments, who determine how to use these funds in their community. Some provincial funding requires municipalities to contribute 20%. Some municipalities support child care by contributing *additional* municipal funding.
- **With a change in provincial government, we may need municipalities to step up to defend child care funding.**

## WHAT'S THE PLAN?

- Under the *Child Care and Early Years Act*, local governments are required to have *Child Care Service System Plans* approved by Councils and publicly released by **June 30, 2019**. **We need to ensure that local *Child Care Service Plans* reflect the needs of the local community.**
- 16 municipalities have protections against big box child care by setting moratoria on future purchase-of-service agreements with new for-profit operators. **Is your municipality protected?**

## WHO DOES WHAT?

- In Ontario, 37 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and 10 District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) are the Child Care Service System Managers. They are responsible for planning and managing child care services at the local level.
- CMSMs are cities like Windsor, Hamilton or Ottawa, or regions and counties like Halton, Waterloo, or Simcoe. In Northern Ontario, DSSABs like Algoma or Thunder Bay have local responsibility for child care. These Boards are made up of elected Councillors from the municipalities in their districts.
- School Board Trustees also have an important role to play. Over half of Ontario's child care centres are now in schools and school boards are now required to provide for before and after-school care.

## THE CHILD CARE CRISIS BY THE NUMBERS

**\$1,000+** child care fees/  
month, some of the highest  
among 35 OECD countries.

**57%** of program staff make  
less than \$15/hr. **16%** of RECEs  
make less than \$15/hour.  
Another 45% make less than  
\$20/hr.

**44%** of families live in “day  
care deserts” where there are  
*three* children for every *one* child  
care space.

**70%** of child care centres in  
Canadian cities have waiting lists.

**32%** of the average single  
parent's income goes to child  
care.

**#1:** Child care was the  
Ontario's Gender Wage Gap  
Strategy Committee's first  
recommendation for government  
action.





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## WHAT WE NEED

The solution to Ontario's child care crisis is a publicly funded early learning and child care system that delivers on **three big ideas**:

- 1. Low fees or no fees for families;**
- 2. Decent work and pay for educators;**
- 3. Expansion of public and non-profit services.**

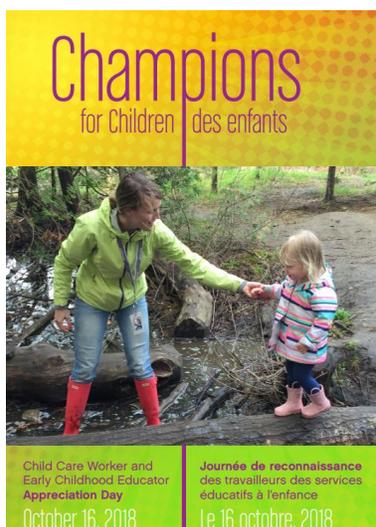
We need all three levels of government – federal, provincial and municipal – to work together to solve this crisis.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Attend your local all-candidates meetings. Make sure child care is raised as a topic for discussion.
- Does your municipality have a Child Care Service Plan yet? Make sure the municipality consults on their plan.
- Tell your story! Share your child care experiences with your local candidates.
- Organize an event for Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Invite local candidates!
- **Vote on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

## QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

1. What is your vision for child care?
2. What will *you* do to help all families access affordable, licensed child care in their neighbourhoods?
3. Do you support the child care community's 3 Big Ideas: low fee or no fee for families, decent work and pay for educators, and expanding in non-profit and public child care?



*Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day is **October 16, 2018**. This is the perfect time to highlight the important contributions that educators and programs play to local communities. Dozens of municipalities around Ontario will be officially proclaiming the day.*

*To help raise awareness, we are making October 12-20<sup>th</sup> a Week of Action for Early Childhood Educators. Tell candidates that we're champions for children and we need them to be champions for child care!*

**For more information visit  
[www.childcareontario.org](http://www.childcareontario.org)**