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## OCBCC Newsletter, January 2013 Edition

### Happy New Year!

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11. **VIDEO:** check out clips from Sharon Gregson's presentation on the BC campaign for **\$10/day child care** as well as her full presentation.

# Parents: share your stories about child care in Ontario

Licensed child care costs upwards of \$40-60/day. There are only spaces for 1 in 5 of Ontario's children. In many regions, subsidy wait lists are very long.

**It doesn't have to be this way.**

**Child care is good for kids, good for families & good for the economy.**

We need share our stories with politicians to let them know what is and isn't working for our communities.

**Get Involved.**  
Take the survey online at:

[www.childcareontario.org/survey](http://www.childcareontario.org/survey)



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## OCBCC launches parent survey

At the Coalition, we are laying the groundwork for a new campaign in support of affordable child care. The future of child care relies on a movement of parents who speak out about the importance of child care to politicians at all levels.

The first step of our campaign is to build a movement of parents who will take action, speak out and organize in their communities. To do this, we are conducting a parent survey as an outreach tool.

**Are you a parent?** We want to hear from you about your experiences of child care options in Ontario. We need these stories to tell politicians what is and isn't working for our communities, families, and children.

### **Click Here to take the survey now!**

Help us to spread the word. Share the link to this survey with friends, family, community members, and colleagues.

**[www.childcareontario.org/survey](http://www.childcareontario.org/survey)**

Not a parent but want to share your stories and be a part of the movement? **Click here for our community survey**. (Grandparents! Aunts & Uncles! Friends!)

To download a flyer about the survey, **click here**. You can post this anywhere: your child care centre, community centre bulletin boards, church community boards, the sky's the limit!

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## Advocacy in action:

### Ottawa students fight back against subsidy policy that excludes graduate students

A change in Ottawa's child care subsidy policy caused a great deal of concern among graduate students and the child care community. The policy meant that students would only be eligible for subsidy while obtaining a four-year undergraduate degree.

This issue highlights the devastating impacts of underfunding on Ontario's parents and the desperate need for increased funding.

Student advocates from both Carleton University and the University of Ottawa put significant pressure on their municipal politicians to ensure that graduate students can still receive a child care subsidy.

The Coalition's wrote an open letter to the Minister of Education requesting the legislative basis by which municipalities have the ability to deem a class of people (in this case graduate and post-graduate students) ineligible for child care subsidy despite their eligibility as a result of Ontario's income test and their enrollment in full-time studies.

After a meeting with several municipal councillors, student advocates were assured that graduate students will remain eligible for subsidy and that all graduate students currently receiving subsidy will continue to receive it.

For more information and to read our letter, [\*\*click here.\*\*](#)

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## Ontario has a new premier



Congratulations to Kathleen Wynne for her success this weekend at the Ontario Liberal Party's convention. Wynne becomes Ontario's first ever female premier.

On Monday October 15th, Dalton McGuinty announced that he was stepping down as leader of the Ontario Liberal Party and thus as Premier. He also announced that he was proroguing parliament until a new leader was elected.

With Wynne as the incoming premier, the house will resume on February 19th, 2013.

In advance of the Liberal convention the Coalition sent an **open letter** to all of the candidates asking them about their vision for early learning and care in Ontario. We did not receive any responses.

At the Coalition, we are optimistic and hopeful about this change. We hosted a provincial debate in Wynne's riding in 2007 and have worked closely with her in the past.

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Wynne was the only candidate to indicate a commitment to child care and early learning in her platform:

***"Build a comprehensive early learning and care system, including the successful extension of full day kindergarten and child care".***

## **New funding formula for child care in Ontario**

The Ministry of Education released Transition to Ontario's New Child Care Funding Formula and Funding Framework on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

This new formula:

- flows the final \$50 million of the 2012 – 2013 stabilization funding that was part of last year's Liberal / NDP budget deal;
- changes the way that all child care funding flows from the province to local CMSMs and DSSABs to deliver child care in our communities; and
- allows CMSM's and DSSAB's to provide base funding to child care programs.

However, new provincial money is limited to the one-time stabilization funding announced last year. It is not enough money to provide base funding with affordable parent fees and reasonable wages that would allow us to stabilize and grow child care services for families.

For more information including our fact sheet on the new formula, [\*\*click here.\*\*](#)

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**What you can do:**

CMSM's and DSSAB's need to continue to develop accountable and transparent relationships with child care operators.

We can expect CMSM's and DSSAB's to allocate and distribute new stabilization funding according to service plans.

This is a time of change and we need to make sure it is change in the right direction.

We need to ensure that staff salaries DO NOT go down and parent fees DO NOT go up.

**How to work with your CMSM/DSSAB  
to protect child care in your community**

As a result of the new funding formula, CMSMs and DSSABs will change the way they deliver child care funds.

The simplification of the funding formula also means more flexibility and the possibility for more variation across the province.

As community members we need to become a 'neighbourhood watch' to keep an eye on changes and help to protect and enhance child care services in our communities.

It's important for us to build relationships with other child care advocates in our community to keep each other informed.

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It's also essential to build relationships with municipal children's services manager as well as local/regional councillors.

For a fact sheet on working with your CMSM & DSSAB, as well as one on gains we have made by working together, [click here](#).

### Going to a Supervisor's Meeting?

[Click here](#) for a flyer about what to take with you to help get answers about changes to funding as well as mobilize the sector around our new parent survey.

### Update on Canada's national child care organizations

In the first week of December, Coalition staff attended a gathering of child care organizations from across the country hosted by the Human Resources Sector Council. In light of their upcoming closure in March 2013, the Sector Council wanted to engage the sector in discussions about the current roles and work of Canada's national child care organizations.

While the sector council is closing, all of their resources (including the HR tool kit and occupational standards) will continue to be available online.

The remaining national organization (the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, the Canadian Child Care Federation, and the Childcare Resource and Research Unit) are working collaboratively to develop a campaign for a national child

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care system.

## **Recognizing excellence in early childhood education programs**

October 24th 2012 marked the 12th annual celebration of child care worker and early childhood educator appreciation day.

This year our annual award recognizes Ontario community colleges with on-campus child care programs – notably Centennial, Conestoga, Confederation, George Brown, Humber, Lambton, Sault, Seneca and Sheridan.

Funded by Ontario's labour movement, our appreciation day celebrates the education, skills, dedication, and commitment of Ontario's child care staff.

On January 24<sup>th</sup> our Coordinator, Andrea Calver went to Sault College to present the award to the board of directors and celebrate the hard-working staff at their campus child care program.



(left to right) OPSEU Local 613's Jeff Arbus, Sault College Board of Governors' Chair Dr. Gina Mohammed, OCBCC Coordinator Andrea Calver, and the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board's Maria Esposito.

For more information, [click here](#).

## **Advocacy in Action:**

**After pressure from community, Sudbury social services committee dismiss staff recommendation to close their only public child care centre**

Over 40 years, generations of children and their parents have benefited from the quality, high level care at Junior Citizens.

One of just a few francophone child care programs, Junior Citizens is the only centre that provides late evening care for parents working the night shift and quality

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supports for families with special needs children.

On Monday, January 21, Greater Sudbury's Community Service Committee decided *not* to adopt the report that recommended closing Junior Citizens.

### **Clyde Hertzman appointed to the Order of Canada for research on the early years**

Congratulations! Dr. Hertzman is a professor at UBC and the Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership where he leads research on the importance of the early years. The appointment is an important affirmation of the need for additional research about children, how they learn and how our society can better support the development of children.

For more information, please [click here](#).

### **Video from Sharon Gregson's presentation on the campaign for \$10/day child care in BC**

On November 15th, the Coalition, in partnership with CUPE Ontario, hosted a public forum on the exciting campaign happening in BC for \$10/day child care.

For a clip with highlights of the plan, [\*\*click here\*\*](#).

For a clip that explains how the plan builds on our existing knowledge, [\*\*click here\*\*](#).

To hear about the United Nations recommendations to Canada, [\*\*click here\*\*](#).

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To watch Sharon's full presentation, **click here.**

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