



Questions for Candidates & Key Messages

Questions for Candidates

Affordable, high quality child care that is accessible for all children and families is an issue for all political parties. During the election voters engage with candidates at the door, during all-candidates meetings and at other community events.

Here are three questions on child care that you can ask candidates:

- ASK** Will you and your party commit to making child care more affordable by funding child care programs instead of individuals and putting in place low fees or no fees for parents?
- ASK** Will you and your party acknowledge the critical importance of decent wages and benefits for early childhood educators and staff by supporting a provincial wage scale recognizing education and experience?
- ASK** Will you and your party commit to funding a significant expansion of child care and to limiting public funding to the non-profit and public sectors?

Key messages

- Parents and educators agree that all children have a right to high quality child care programs that are affordable for all families and that support educators and staff with professional pay and working conditions.
- Affordable child care is good news for families because parents won't have to pay the equivalent of a 2nd mortgage as they do now with Ontario having the highest fees in Canada.
- A stable and well-funded child care system can provide all children in Ontario with the best possible start in life because Early Childhood Educators have the training and knowledge to support child development and to support parents through good communication, curriculum and programming.
- Affordable, quality child care will allow more women/mothers who want to enter the workforce the opportunity to do so - a necessity for closing the gender wage gap in Ontario.
- Universal child care is good news for Ontario's economy. Parents will be able to enter the workforce knowing their children are safe and well cared for, families will have more money to spend in the local economy and early childhood educators will have fulfilling careers where they are compensated for the value of their work.
- Every dollar of public funds for child care must go to our children and not into corporate pockets.