

# Needed: Child care champions at Queen's Park

## Who we are and why we care

- We are a broad coalition of parents, educators and others passionate about child care issues who are urging MPPs to make a personal commitment to be **Child Care Champions**.
- Child care is a vitally important local issue in Ontario families, communities and economies.

## The economic value of child care

- Economists estimate the multiplier effect for licensed child care in Ontario is 2.27. This means that an investment of \$1 results in an immediate economic output of \$2.27.
- Analysis shows that when child care investments support accessible, high quality early learning and child care programs there are moderate to significant impacts in each of the following areas:
  - Economic stimulus;
  - Increased labour market participation, particularly by women;
  - Reduced poverty;
  - Improved child development outcomes;
  - Increased social and support networks for families.
- Canadian and international research confirms that tax credit approaches (like CARE) do not have the same positive economic impacts as funding to child care services directly.

## What we need: Responsible, stable investment

- ✓ Protect current child care funding investments to programs and subsidies – over 400,000 Ontario children and their families use licensed child care every day. Child care budgets are already tight. Cuts to child care funding would directly impact parent fees and educators' wages.
- ✓ Support Ontario's early childhood educators by carrying out the key commitments of the *Early Years and Child Care Workforce Strategy*, including a wage grid for educators by April 2020.
- ✓ Continue to provide capital and operating dollars to expand non-profit programs.

## ***Moving forward:***

To best support Ontario's families and educators, we need further action on **3 Big Ideas**:

- 1. *Low fees or no fees for families:*** We need to increase direct funding to licensed child care programs to help lower parent fees.
- 2. *Decent work and pay for educators:*** Low wages are driving people out of the sector. Early childhood educators need and deserve decent work and fair pay.
- 3. *Expansion of non-profit spaces:*** There are still only spaces for fewer than 1 in 3 kids, and many areas of the province are "child care deserts". We need to grow the non-profit child care sector that provides the bulk of Ontario's child care spaces already and is well-positioned to expand.

To help solve the child care crisis **we need you to commit to be a Child Care Champion at Queen's Park** to take this issue forward. Thank you.