

**Child Care**



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



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Dear Premier,

For many years, child care has relied on higher and higher parent fees to keep our doors open. Parent fees are as high as they can go. Ontario's government must invest in the child care sector

### **Lack of funding for early learning and child care programs**

There has not been an adjustment in funding for inflation to municipalities in over 15 years. That means every year we have less money to fund vital programs and qualified staff.

Because of the lack of provincial funding, licensed child care is very expensive. Many parents pay \$40 to \$60 per day or \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year, per child for child care. The cost of child care is now more than most families can pay – fees cannot continue to rise. Lack of subsidies mean many low income families can't access high quality child care. We need a new funding model that does not rely on ever-increasing parent fees.

### **Impacts of Ontario's Early Learning Program on Child Care**

Ontario has a new early learning program with 4 and 5 year olds in school programs. That program has impacts to child care programs that could cause parents fees to go up, or centres to no longer be viable and close. Because younger children are more expensive to care for, without new funding, parent fees will go up, and with licensed spaces for only 20% of Ontario's children, we cannot afford to lose a single space.

### **Shortage of Qualified Staff: Who Will Take Care of Our Children?**

There is a shortage of qualified RECE's in Ontario. Many Registered early childhood educators (RECE's) are underpaid and undervalued. Fair pay and benefits (like pensions) will ensure that RECE's are able to make enough money to support their own families and encourage those who have left the field to come back to the job that they love and were trained to do.

### **Our Communities Need Child Care – We Can't Afford to Lose it**

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address and/or Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

affix  
postage  
here

**TO:**

**Dalton McGuinty,  
Premier  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON  
M7A 1A1**



**Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care**  
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