



I'm Voting for Children and Families

Municipal and School Board Elections

Monday October 25, 2010



early learning and child care • middle childhood • family supports

Matter to Me!

Attention Parents and Professionals: Why This Election is Important

Vital Roles of Municipalities and School Boards

Municipalities

The majority of the funding for early learning and child care comes from the Provincial and Federal governments. In general, the Province is responsible for 80% of the cost, with municipalities responsible for 20% of the costs.

With funding from the Province, Municipalities are responsible for the administration of child care, family resource programs and other services for children. Municipalities are required to follow their own local service plan which sets out local priorities which can include:

- whether families can access subsidies
- whether a child care subsidy funds the whole cost, or partial cost of a child care space
- geographic equity (services to children across the municipality or region)
- age equity (services to children of various ages)
- distribution of minor or major capital
- determining where you can open a child care program or family resource program

Municipalities are responsible for administering:

- fee subsidies
- special needs resources
- wage grants, direct grants, wage subsidy and pay equity

As most of the funding comes from the Provincial or Federal levels of government, municipalities, working with the community, play a vital role in lobbying the Provincial and Federal governments for more funding for early learning and child care.

Many municipalities fund more than 20% of the costs of early learning to meet the needs of children and families. In our current financial climate, any Councillor or Mayor running for office must commit to maintaining the current levels of funding and consider additional municipal funding for these vital services. Early learning and child care is a good investment for all levels of government.

School Boards

With the introduction of Ontario's Early Learning Program, school boards play a huge role in determining the quality of the program for children.

School Board Trustees will make many important decisions for the new early learning program:

- offering and enrolling parents for an extended day program
- determining what transportation will be available
- offering year-round care for students
- offering a lunch program

School Board Trustees will make many important decisions that impact on the future of all services to children from infants to 12 years old:

- Protect space of child care programs in schools. With half of Ontario's child care programs in schools, school board policy will play a critical role in preserving these programs for younger children.
- Protect and expand community-based programs in schools. School should be central to the community with family resource programs and other resources for families.
- School boards should run high quality and affordable programs for all children from 6-12 years old.
- Determining wages and hours of work for Early Childhood Educators. School boards will be among the largest employers of Early Childhood Educators. Their policies will determine the wages of Early Childhood Educators and whether those jobs are good full-time jobs or part-time jobs with split shifts.

Sponsored by the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, Family Supports Institute Ontario, Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care, Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto, Campaign 2000. For more info and resources on the elections go to: www.childcareontario.org