

Questions for Candidates

The Early Learning and Child Care sector is going through enormous change.

Municipal and school board leaders will make decisions about services to families, funding levels and the direction of change for the next four years.

We have provided questions for Candidates for Councilor, School Board Trustee and Mayor – that address the immediate funding issues and the long term vision for our sector.

1. We need to maintain stable funding and expand our services to meet growing needs.
2. We also need candidates with a vision to work with us through this time of change.

Personalize your question!

Politicians remember anecdotes. Talk about your kids, your family and your struggles. They will remember your story.

Be succinct and clear.

Show you care! These are important issues to tens of thousands of families just like you.

Here are some things that you and your community can do to make sure that *all* the candidates in the upcoming municipal and school board elections hear loud and clear that people in your community want a child care plan that delivers a fully accessible, affordable, high quality, public system of child care and family support!

- ▶ Find out who your candidates are – go to your municipal website.
- ▶ Call their campaign offices for upcoming events in your ward where you might be able to catch them and ask them about child care
- ▶ Attend an All-Candidates Debate – get up and ask them one of the questions on the sheet in this kit – go one step further and make copies of these questions and hand them out to everyone in the audience!
- ▶ Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.
- ▶ JOIN with others.....get involved with the political campaign for the most progressive candidate in your ward.



I'm Voting for Children and Families



Municipal and School Board Elections

Monday October 25, 2010

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

Questions for City Councillor:

Funding:

Early learning and child care is a vital service to families in our community. Municipalities are in charge of creating a service plan to meet the needs of children and families – from infants until children are 12 years old.

With the introduction of full day learning for 4 and 5 years olds in schools, this is a time of enormous change.

Are you committed to preserving all the existing programs and expanding services to meet growing needs for children and families in our community?

Will you commit to continuing to spend the existing amount of money on early learning and child care?

Vision:

Over the next several years, municipalities are in charge of leading a transformation of early learning and child care and establishing Child and Family Centres.

How will your work support this vision and make it work for our community?

Questions for school board trustee:

Funding:

Early learning and child care programs want a real partnership in implementing early learning.

Are you committed to preserving the space of community based child care programs in schools so we can continue to provide a range of services to families?

Vision:

This is a time of huge change for school boards and our community needs collaborative leadership.

What steps will you take to build programs for infants to 12 year olds in schools in cooperation with the broader community including child care, family support program and other community agencies?

Questions for Mayor:

Funding:

Early learning and child care programs aim to support all children, with a range of services. We need a comprehensive system that is affordable and accessible to see all children benefit.

Will you commit to maintaining all existing funding and working with the Provincial and Federal government for more funding to implement a truly comprehensive system?

Vision:

Municipalities are responsible for reshaping and expanding services for families.

As mayor, how would you collaborate and demonstrate leadership to help build our system of early learning and child care?

