

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

# Child Care Watch

Your source for news about child care advocacy



## Welcome to Our E-Newsletter!

You are receiving this e-mail update because either you are a member of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care or you signed up for updates when you met us at a community meeting or event. If you do not want to receive our free quarterly advocacy e-newsletter, please click the following link rather than mark it as spam or junk in your e-mail program, and you will not hear from us again. [Remove me from this list](#)

### In the April 2011 Edition:

1. [Federal Election: National Child Care](#)
  2. [Provincial Budget Announced](#)
  3. [Provincial Election, October 6th 2011](#)
  4. [Ontario Can't Work Without Child Care Tour](#)
  5. [YWCA Report on Working Women and the need for Child Care](#)
  6. [Full Day Learning Impacts: Resources for your Program](#)
  7. [AECEO Conference](#)
  8. [Publications, two now available in French!](#)
  9. [About the OCBCC](#)
-

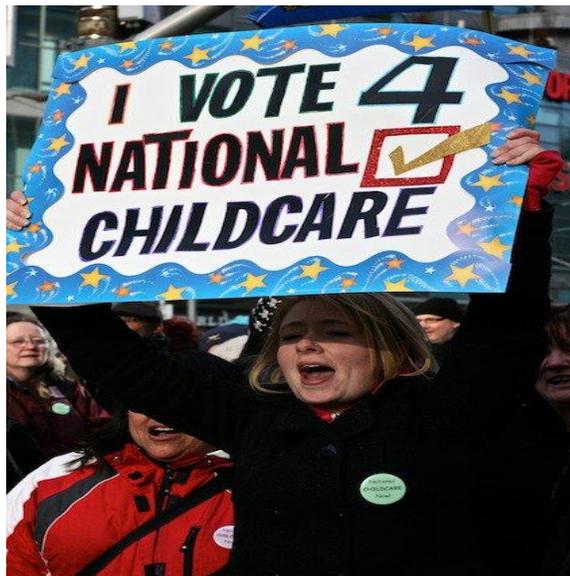
## **Federal Election 2011 - Where does child Care Fit In?**

There will be a federal election on May 2nd. Each of us must do what we can to put child care on the agenda and ensure that the political parties are clear about their position on child care.

Candidates in our communities must know that we will be voting for child care, and that we need to hear a strong commitment from each party for funding to create more affordable high quality spaces and ensure decent wages for ECEs.

[Click here](#) for our page on the federal election where we will post information about party platform announcements related to child care, including the Liberal announcement for a new early learning and care fund.

Before the election was called, talks of a national child care program had begun to re-emerge in media across the country, [click here](#) to read some of the stories and debates.



Code Blue for Child Care is a national child care advocacy group and in light of the current election, they have launched their website, Good Child Care Works for Canada. [Click here](#) to check it out!

Tell everyone why Canada needs Child Care! [Go to the CCAAC's website "We Need Child](#)

[Care"](#) to share your story.

---

### **Provincial Budget Announced: No Funding for Child Care**

Early learning and child care programs are key for working parents to participate in the workforce. With no new funding in Ontario's 2011 budget, parents will face rising fees, cuts in services and closures as a result of years of underfunding, combined with financial pressures from Ontario's full-day kindergarten program.

The Ontario Coalition had representatives in the Gallery to hear the speech, as well as in Lock-up, ready to respond to media.

For the OCBCC's press release and more information on the Budget, released March 29, please [click here](#).

In preparation for the budget, the OCBCC presented our proposal to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, Government of Ontario on Monday, January 31st. Our a plan to stabilize Ontario's early learning and child care system included \$100 million in the 2011 Budget, with a commitment of \$200 million in the 2012 Budget.

This funding was to 1) Limit parent fee increases and 2) Address the low wages and benefits for the qualified staff in the early learning and care sector. For more information and to read the report, please [click here](#).

In advance of the budget, hundreds of students and faculty signed petitions urging the Finance Minister to consider Ontario's families, children, parents and communities as he headed in to his budget announcement.

Now is the time for our community to come together and work to ensure that child care is a key issue in the upcoming provincial election. The current Government and other politicians running must be accountable to sustaining the programs that serve our children, families and communities.

---

## Provincial Election 2011:

### Get Started: Putting child care and early learning on the public agenda!

Get informed about the underfunding of child care, and help raise awareness in your community.

Download and print these information sheets:

Fact Sheet for parents: [Overview of Child Care Funding and Staff Shortages](#)

Fact Sheet for staff, board members and others: [Impacts of Ontario's Early Learning Program on Child Care](#)

*Take action!* Advocacy doesn't have to be serious or time-consuming. Check out our list of small actions you can do in as little as 5 minutes or less! [What Can I do If I Only Have...](#)

Materials will be available to order in June leading to the Provincial election. Postcards and stickers are also available now!



## Ontario Can't Work Without Child Care Tour

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care's cross-province tour wrapped up in Kitchener Waterloo on March 29th, with a great turnout of roughly 50 parents, staff, and supervisors from the community, as well as the local MP, Andrew Telegdi.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, along with the Ontario Federation of Labour, toured the province hosting community forums to discuss: lack of funding to the child care and early learning sector; impacts of Ontario's early learning program on child care; how to stop increasing parent fees; and ensuring that all child care staff receive decent wages. We are incredibly grateful to those who helped organize the events within their communities and all those who attended and participated in the lively discussions on how to mobilize our communities and put child care on the public agenda.

Child Care Centres in Kenora and Dryden took part in the campaign by inviting their MPP Howard Hampton to tour their programs and see first hand the impacts that high quality care has on children's lives. For more media coverage of the tour, please [click here](#). Campaign materials are still available leading in to the provincial election. [Click here](#) for more information!



Students in Toronto from Ryerson and George Brown organized a "hokey pokey" flash mob

rally to call for a national child care program. Hundreds of students, faculty and community members came out in support and chanted "For families, for children, for choice: National Child Care Now!" The event was light-hearted and a great success, with students carrying a variety of creative signs including the themed "Will you put your whole self in for child care?" You can find lots of great photos from the rally on our facebook page by [clicking here](#).



---

### **YWCA Report on Working Women and the Need for Child Care**

On March 7th, 2011, in honour of International Women's Day, The YWCA released ***Educated, Employed and Equal*** speaking about the need to have a national child-care program in Canada.

The number of women in the workforce has gone up every year. Women in the labor force has doubled from 1976-2009 to more than 7.7 million. Women have made big gains in employment and education. For instance, 60% of university graduates are women. But the availability of child care has not kept pace with these social trends.

"With a workforce that is increasingly well-educated and in which more women than men

are obtaining university and college educations, a national plan to ensure comprehensive access to quality, affordable early learning and child care services is essential to Canadian prosperity, a crucial support for children and parents and a common sense response to a changed society. As a choice for parents, early learning and child care services should be as normalized in our social structure as the public school system." (p.3)

"In 1976, the employment rate for women with infants and toddlers (youngest child under three) was 27.6 %; by 2009, it had more than doubled to 64.4%. Adding in mothers with a youngest child in pre-school or kindergarten raised the employment rate slightly, to 66.5% in 2009. Where the rate took is significantly higher is for women with school-age children (6-15 years) at 78.5%, which is less than 2% lower than the 80.4% rate for women with no children.<sup>9</sup> This 12-16 percentage point difference reveals a social policy gap: the lack of a system of early learning and child care services that would support women to work and have children." (p. 7)

To read the front page Toronto Star article covering the issue, please [click here](#). To read the report, please [click here](#).

---

### **Financial Impacts of Chronic Underfunding and Full-day Kindergarten: Resources for Your Program**

At [www.childcaremanagement.ca](http://www.childcaremanagement.ca) you can find free resources available for your program

#### 1) Survey on Financial Impacts on child care centres

- Tell us how the implementation of the early learning program influences your program! We can use this information to lobby the government for increased funding and support

#### 2) Early Years Program Impact Kit

- Tools to help child care centres plan and move forward with the Early Learning Program, and help child care centres that are facing financial trouble / the possibility of closure or merger in the near future.
- Try using the checklist to determine which fact sheets apply to your child care

centre

### 3) Smart Treasurer E-Learning Program

- This e-learning module builds skills for effective financial oversight in a concise, easy to adopt online training program directed at volunteer parent board members and centre supervisors for community based child care programs.

For all three resources go to: [www.childcaremanagement.ca](http://www.childcaremanagement.ca), under "What's New"

---

### **AECEO Conference**

The AECEO Conference brochure is now available!

This unique initiative will be of interest whether you are a seasoned educator looking to re-awaken your passion or just starting out on your career path. The "camp" will help you focus on you and the potential in all of us to lead change, in all aspects of our lives. It will inspire you, empower you, support you and teach you the skills you need to thrive and prosper in our ever evolving world.

[Click here](#) for more information.

**Students:** How would you like the chance to attend the largest professional development event for early childhood educators in Ontario? This year's conference will be focusing on LEADERSHIP AND TEAM BUILDING. This is an amazing opportunity for new and upcoming professionals to engage and network with ECEs from across the province.

The AECEO Showcase a Leader Contest is our way of promoting the importance of leadership with current Early Childhood Education students in Ontario. Our goal is to create awareness of the significance of leadership primarily in the early learning and care sector. Write an article about an individual that inspires you. This individual can be a community leader, a supervisor, a faculty member, a work colleague, or even a family member. For more information, [click here!](#)

---

## OCBCC Publications

We are very excited to offer one of our most popular publications, the [Child Care Management Guide](#), in French.

L'édition 2009 du [Guide de gestion des services de garde](#) a été révisé pour tenir compte de la législation et les pratiques actuelles de gestion et est livré avec la nouvelle politique de nombreux échantillons et de procédure à télécharger et personnaliser. Le Guide de gestion des services de garde III fournira des programmes communautaires de soins aux enfants, d'apprentissage et des outils de gestion et peut également être utilisé comme un texte plus formel d'apprentissage dans les programmes de la CEE dans les collèges de l'Ontario. Il est actuellement en cours de traduction et devrait être disponible vers la fin de Juin. Il s'agit d'une publication incroyablement utile et populaire et nous sommes fiers de pouvoir l'offrir en français.

The publication is available at [www.childcaremanagement.ca](http://www.childcaremanagement.ca) on our En français page under Publications. [Click here](#) for the page.

[Best Practices for Ontario's Early Learning Program](#) provides practical tools including fact sheets, checklists and sample forms to help school boards, Principals and the early learning staff team implement Ontario's Early Learning Program in schools. It also includes information on the roles of the staff team (including developing and evaluating your program); best practices for health, safety and nutrition; curriculum (including planning tools on developmentally appropriate and play based learning); family involvement and community outreach.

For more information or to purchase this publication online, please [click here](#).

We are proud to announce that Best Practices will soon be available in French!

The recently revised 2010 version of [A Guide to Child Care and Early Learning in Ontario](#) (formerly A Guide to Child Care in Ontario) is now available. A review of current child care and early learning policy in the province of Ontario, this publication includes up to date statistics on the changing family, Ontario's full-day early learning program for 4 and 5 year olds, curriculum (including ELECT and Ontario's draft kindergarten program), child care financing, the benefits of child care, advocacy, and the responsibilities of all three levels of government.

This publication is regularly used as a textbook in Early Childhood Education Programs.  
For more information, please visit our publications page  
<http://www.childcareontario.org/publications> or [click here](#).

---

### **About the OCBCC**

The OCBCC is committed to bringing about an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system that is not-for-profit and publicly funded, universally accessible, and high quality.

[Click here](#) to Join the OCBCC

To visit the OCBCC web site, [click here](#).

Please consider joining the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.

Student Memberships are \$30.00 / year.

Child Care Worker: \$37.50 / year

All Other Individuals: \$60.00 / year

Organizational Memberships start at \$100.

Follow us on Twitter: [@ChildCareON](#) or <http://twitter.com/ChildCareON>

Looking for child care resources and publications? Go to [www.childcaremanagement.ca](http://www.childcaremanagement.ca)

Looking for child care news? Go to [www.childcareontario.org](http://www.childcareontario.org)

Having trouble finding child care? Having trouble paying for child care? Go to  
[www.waitingforchildcare.ca](http://www.waitingforchildcare.ca)



You are receiving this e-mail from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care because you are a member of the coalition, opted in on our website, signed up for updates at a local meeting, or have been in communication with us regarding child care issues.

[Unsubscribe](#) <<Email Address>> from this list | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)

**Our mailing address is:**

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care  
489 College Street, Suite 206  
Toronto, Ontario M6G 1A5  
Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

*Copyright (C) 2011 Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care All rights reserved.*