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## Provincial Budget 2012

### Ontario's Child Care Community is Coming Together

Let's make this the year we save child care!

You are receiving this e-mail 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: [Remove me from this list](#)

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services.

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## **Provincial Budget 2012: Child care system faces collapse without immediate funding**

2012 is a crisis point for child care. **Without funding in the 2012 provincial budget we know that fees will rise and many centres will be forced to close.**

Ontario's child care community is coming together in a campaign to ensure funding in the budget and save our spaces. **Local politicians need to hear from parents and staff about the important role our programs play in our communities.**

In the coming weeks the Coalition will be launching a social media campaign connecting parents and community members with the general public and their local politicians. Stay tuned – we'll send you information about it as soon as it launches!

Meanwhile, **there is a lot you can do to make a difference** in your community and we've got the tools to help you do it.



**We all need to get informed and raise awareness in our community; reach out and engage others in the campaign; and put pressure on our MPPs.**

For our [campaign flyer](#) which outlines actions we can all take to make a difference, click here.  
(Need black and white to print? [Click here](#))

To help get you started we have the following templates available:

Mock invoice for child care services for 2012

Mock invoice for child care under Quebec's system

Sample letter to Minister of Education

Fact sheet: How did we get here and What's at stake?

**For all these materials check out our campaign website. [Click here.](#)**

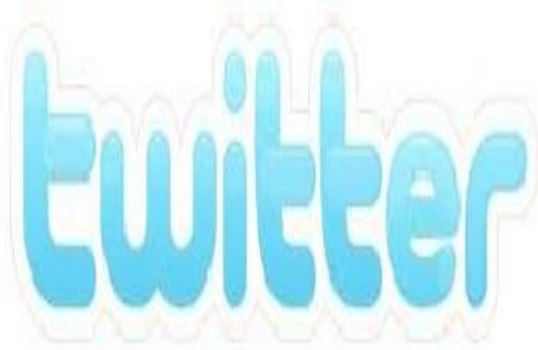


### **Take action! What can I do to help?**

Ideas for activities you can do in your community are listed in the campaign flyer and larger versions of each phase are available on the website to be printed for your bulletin board.

First step? Spread the word! Let friends and family know what's going on – **share** the campaign website on your Facebook and/or Twitter and talk about the important role of your

program in your community. (Don't forget to ["like" us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter - @ChildCareON](#) to get up-to-the-minute news about child care in Ontario!)



[www.childcarenow.ca](http://www.childcarenow.ca) – **Get your centre profiled! Join others and be heard.**

In addition to providing campaign resources and materials, [www.childcarenow.ca](http://www.childcarenow.ca) profiles centres around the province and highlights both the important role they play in their communities and the struggles they face due to chronic underfunding and reliance on ever-increasing parent fees. With your help we would like to profile your centre.

Check out existing profiles online, and download the [questionnaire](#) here!

### **This Valentine's day: Have a heart- Save child care!**

Making program plans for Valentine's Day? It's an excellent opportunity to do fun, light-hearted advocacy activities. A few years ago parents and staff from one of our member centres delivered a large heart-shaped cookie to their local MPP – who happens to be Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan.

We secured child care funding in the budget that year. Coincidence? Possibly, but it was a great way to make contact with their local politician and put child care on their radar!



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### **Peel Regional Council: Unanimous vote *not* to close municipal child care centres - for now**

On Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>, a letter was sent out to parents at the Region of Peel's municipal centres that the region was considering the closure of all 12 of their municipal child care centres.

Closing all 12 centres would have meant:

- Loss of 800 child care spaces
- Loss of Peel's great programs – specialized curriculum, fantastic facilities, a child care leader in the region

With the help of the Brampton-Mississauga District Labour Council and the CUPE we were able to hand out information to parents at the centres *before* the region sent out notices and hosted a parent meeting to discuss the impacts the closures would have. Around **300 parents** came to discuss the value of these programs and the high quality staff. [Click here](#) for video from the event.

**On Thursday January 2th, Peel Regional Council had to open 3 overflow rooms as Councilors heard hours of deputations. At the end of the day council voted *against* the**

**proposal.**

For more the Coalition's press release after the vote, [click here](#). For media articles about the issue, [click here](#).



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### **Success! Toronto residents stop devastating cuts to child care and other city services.**

Parents and Staff: Congratulations! Thanks to your hard work and advocacy, Toronto's budget had **no cuts to child care**. For months, parents, staff and allies sent in letters, signed petitions and deputed to protect community services in Toronto, and their voices were heard. Some of the programs and services that were threatened and are now safe include:

- \$1.68 million for the school-based childcare rent subsidy
- \$5 million to the TTC to help prevent service cuts
- \$3.9 million to prevent proposed cuts to libraries
- \$1.3 million to restore youth programs at Priority Centres
- \$680,000 for programming at 5 school-based pools
- \$260,000 for ice rink programming



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### **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](#)

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