



# ON OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> VOTE FOR BETTER CHILD CARE IN TORONTO

Are you having a tough time accessing affordable child care?

You are not alone.

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

### EXPENSIVE COST

IT COSTS MORE THAN



A YEAR TO PLACE AN INFANT IN LICENSED CHILD CARE

**75%**

OF FAMILIES



CAN'T AFFORD THIS

The City of Toronto provides subsidies for licensed child care to over 30,000 children. The subsidy is working for those families who can access it.



**>14,000**

CHILDREN ARE STILL WAITING FOR A CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

The child care and subsidy systems do not meet the needs of all parents, such as those who have unpredictable schedules or work evenings and weekends.

Child care is particularly important for women, who are often primary caregivers for children. Women who cannot afford child care face barriers to taking on full-time work. Some find no option but to use unlicensed centres or must rely on family members.

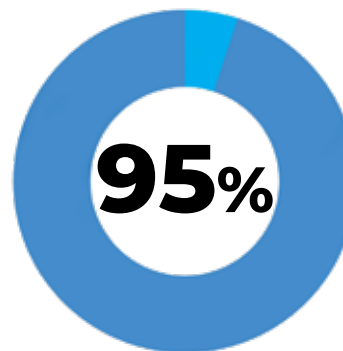
### NOT ENOUGH CHILD CARE SPACES IN ALL NEIGHBOURHOODS



**80%**

OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 13 DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO LICENSED CHILD CARE

Families face difficulties finding licensed child care in their neighbourhoods. In Etobicoke, Scarborough, York, and much of North York, there is a critical shortage of spaces. The number of licensed spaces cover 40% or less of the children in most neighbourhoods in these areas.



95% OF CHILD CARE CENTRES IN TORONTO HAVE WAITING LISTS



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## HOW CAN CITY COUNCIL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The City of Toronto can improve access to licensed child care by committing to:

- Create 11,500 **new child care spaces**, including 5,000 **subsidized spaces**.
- Fund and implement the City's Child Care Growth Strategy, which promises to build 30,000 **new licensed child care spaces for children under age 4** by 2026.
- Fund and implement the Toronto Middle Childhood Strategy to ensure access to **before-school, after-school, and summer programs** for children 6–12 years.
- Ensure that more licensed **child care spaces are available outside of downtown**.
- Increase the budget for **child care subsidies**.
- Ensure that the child care system meets the **needs of low-income families** who work evenings and weekends.
- Work with the provincial and federal governments to dedicate **more money towards child care** in Toronto.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CANDIDATES:

- Are you committed to implementing the City's Child Care Growth Strategy?
- Are you committed to implementing the City's Middle Childhood Strategy?
- How will you help all families access affordable, licensed child care in their neighbourhoods?
- What are your plans to ensure access to high quality, affordable child care for low-income families in Toronto?

For more information, visit  
[www.socialplanningtoronto.org](http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org)

