

POSITION STATEMENT



Key Messages Regarding the Canada-Wide Child Care Plan:

- ✓ CCPRN's leadership team is committed to and focused on the well-being and safety of all children.
- ✓ Parents are competent and capable of making child care choices best suited to meet their family's needs.
- ✓ Quality child care exists, and is exemplified, among all sectors.
- ✓ All children and families need to be valued and supported—not only those in the licensed system. Affordable child care needs to be available to all families.
- ✓ Decent wage and work standards should apply to all child care providers. Reducing and/or eliminating barriers to information, training, and support is also key.

Action Items:

- ➔ Provide parents with an unbiased definition of quality child care.
- ➔ Present all child care choices equally.
- ➔ Provide an allowance earmarked specifically for child care, directly to parents, as this is the best and most inclusive option for all families.
 - Allows parents the choice of location and type of child care, including care by a relative, in-home nanny, home child care provider, or centre.
 - Provides an income for parents who choose to stay at home with young children. Child care is the care of a child and should be valued as work.
 - Supports all home child care providers (predominantly women) who contribute to the economy as small business owners.
 - Easily administered through the CCB program
- ➔ Provide enhanced child care tax credits and access to subsidized child care, based on income, to further support those most in need. Without these types of income-based benefits, wealthier parents will have more choices creating a two-tiered system with lower income families having limited options.
- ➔ Support the expansion of both public and private child care, especially in underserved communities and rural areas.

→ Overhaul the home child care licensing system in Ontario:

- Audit (with full transparency) large non-profits receiving the lion's share of taxpayer dollars.
 - What benefits do large agencies offer to home child care providers and/or Ontario families?
 - Why are providers contractors instead of employees?
 - Why can't agencies attract and retain providers?
 - Post the salaries of non-profit agency executive leads and let Ontario voters decide what's best.
 - Independent providers do not cost the taxpayers anything, instead they contribute to the economy as small business owners.
- Allow providers to be independently licensed without having to go through an agency. Streamline licensing requirements and establish provincial health, safety, and welfare standards for all home child care.
- Expand access to subsidized child care by allowing the subsidy to follow the child.

Summary:

The federal government's proposed plan is anything but inclusive—as stated by the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario, “the program will limit parents' choices, discriminate against commercial licensed child care centres and will certainly result in job losses and the closure of many woman-owned small businesses.”

A plan that highlights quality care, supports all families, increases affordability, and values the work of caring for children is not only possible but essential.

The licensed child care sector cares for a maximum of 24.5% of Ontario Children 0-12 years. This leaves more than 75% (approximately 1,500,000) of Ontario children 0-12 years in the care of a parent or other independent (unlicensed) provider.

The overwhelming majority of Ontario children are not part of the licensed child care system. Excluding these children, their families, and their child care providers from a province-wide child care plan will be detrimental to the overall well-being and economic stability of the province --something Ontario voters won't soon forget.

Child Care Providers Resource Network of Ottawa-Carleton is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to providing training, support, and information to home-based child care providers. CCPRN has close to 40 years as a successful organization and a network reach of over 4500 providers and parents. For more information, please visit www.ccprn.com.

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