



CCPRN Weekly E-News March 31, 2022:

Following Monday's announcement highlighting Ontario's Child Care Action Plan, we have pulled together as much information to share with you as possible. Many of the details are still unknown. With unlicensed care excluded from the plan, we know that providers and parents are feeling concerned and worried. It's important to know that while a framework has been established, the implementation of this new plan will take time. Below you'll find information on what we know so far, things to consider, and ways to advocate and have your voice heard. We're with you, together in caring.

Official News Releases:

From the Prime Minister's Office:

\$10-a-day child care for families in Ontario

From the Ontario Newsroom:

\$13.2 Billion Child Care Deal will Lower Fees for Families and **Ontario's Child Care Action Plan Puts Families First**

Provincial Summary:

Canada-Ontario early years and child care agreement

Watch the official announcement here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEklBrA6GcQ&t=149s>



What we know so far, in relation to home child care:

- All Ontario families with children under the age of six, as well as children who turn six years before June 30, including those receiving fee subsidies, in **participating licensed child care (centre and home based)** will see a fee reduction of up to 25%, retroactive to April 1, 2022, followed by further reductions to an eventual **average fee** of \$10 per day in September 2025.
- All licensed child care providers (businesses/agencies offering centre and/or home based care, both profit and not-for-profit) in Ontario are **eligible to apply** to participate in the new CWELCC System in Ontario. Participation is optional, however encouraged by the Ministry so that families can benefit from reduced fees. Participation is not automatic, and is based on certain conditions (such as financial viability).
- **Families with children in unlicensed home child care are not eligible for fee reductions or the eventual average fee of \$10/day.** Independent

(unlicensed) home child care providers can continue to operate as usual and charge their regular fees. There is still a need for independent home child care in Ontario.

- As always, independent providers can choose to join a licensed home child care agency. Currently, each licensed agency/business (and/or the affiliated provider) sets their own parent fees and provider rates. Some agencies/businesses offer a variety of models (different level of agency involvement), with varying fees to join, and varying other benefits (trainings, equipment loans, toy library, etc.). We don't have any confirmed information on how this will be structured going forward. It will be up to each agency/business (for profit or not-for-profit) to decide how to recruit and retain home child care providers.
- The new plan includes an increase of 86,000 new licensed child care spaces for children 0-5 years, between 2019-2026. These spaces will help to address the current shortage but will take time to create and to staff (there is also a current shortage of child care workers, RECE in particular).
- The compensation changes mentioned in the announcement will be for RECE staff in centres, and RECE supervisors and RECE home child care visitors.
- The previously established wage enhancement grant for both centre staff and home child care providers affiliated with a licensed agency will remain in place. Currently, full-time home child care providers affiliated with a licensed agency participating in the provincial wage enhancement grant receive a top up of up to \$20/day.
- The CARE tax credit will continue to be available to eligible families, regardless of the type of care they receive (licensed, unlicensed, camps, etc.). This tax credit supports families with incomes up to \$150,000,

particularly those with low and moderate incomes. Learn more

here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-child-care-tax-credit>

- We have submitted follow-up questions to the Ministry of Education seeking clarification on what new fee guidelines might be introduced for licensed home child care and are currently waiting for a response.

Things to think about:

- With the current space and staff shortage in the licensed sector, a demand for unlicensed care will continue to exist. Less than 30% of Ontario children are part of the licensed child care sector. It's not too late to share your opinion and advocate for a truly inclusive plan. We've listed some ideas below.
- Each family is unique in how they make their child care decisions. Some will need/want to take advantage of a fee reduction as soon as possible. This means that they will need to secure a spot with a licensed child care business/agency. There may or may not be a spot available and it may or may not be exactly what the family prefers in terms of centre-based or home-based care, location, hours of care, type of program/philosophy, etc. Other families will choose to stay with their current unlicensed provider and pay the full fees. Factors influencing a family's decision include finances but also the relationship with the provider, the age and number of children needing care, and the location, flexibility, and type of program/philosophy offered.
- Independent providers wanting to join an agency should take the time to gather information and make the best decision based on their individual business needs.

- Remember! Independent home child care offers many benefits to families that they might not otherwise access:
 - a long term relationship with the caregiver (sometimes involving multiple generations!)
 - care offered close to home, often in the neighbourhood
 - flexible hours and/or extended hours (so many have also gone above and beyond to support the families in their care)
 - ability to keep siblings together in a small care setting
 - pick-up/drop-off option for children at school
 - ability to tailor the program to best meet the child's needs
 - a true partnership with the family to work together in the best interest of the child
 - ability to adapt and work with families during extenuating circumstances
- Each home child care provider also brings a unique set of skills, experiences, values, and qualifications--remember all of the wonderful things that you personally contribute and that shape your role as a caregiver.

Have your voice heard:

Contact your MP, MPP, Minister Lecce, and Premier Ford. Let them know how this impacts you personally. Here are some CCPRN resources:

- **Letter Template** (on page 2 of resources, will need to be adapted since the agreement has now been signed)
- **Position Statement on the Proposed Canada-Wide Child Care Plan**
- **Joint Statement with Embolden**

- Infographic:

CHILD CARE IN ONTARIO

75%
OF CHILDREN
0-12 YEARS OLD



are in the care of a
parent, relative,
independent home child
care provider, or
in-home nanny



**THAT'S NEARLY
1.5 MILLION CHILDREN**

Child population aged 0-12: 1,987,967

**THE LICENSED SECTOR
PROVIDES CARE FOR:**

**LESS than 25% of
children 0-12 years**

**"CHILD-CARE POLICIES
SHOULD BE EQUITABLE FOR
ALL FAMILIES, REGARDLESS OF
THE TYPE OF CARE THEY
CHOOSE. UNIVERSAL CHILD-
CARE SYSTEMS FAIL TO
RECOGNIZE THE DIVERSE CARE
NEEDS OF ONTARIO PARENTS
AND THEIR REASONS FOR THE
TYPE OF CARE THEY CHOOSE."**

**CARDUS: CARING FOR ONTARIO'S CHILDREN
PROTECTING DIVERSITY IN CHILD CARE**



**A universal plan focused only on the licensed sector
limits child care choices for families and only values
and supports 23.3% of Ontario children 0-12 years.**



Child Care Providers
RESOURCE NETWORK

CCPRN's official statement regarding the Ontario-Federal Child Care Announcement:

"CCPRN continues to advocate that the Conservative government fund families directly. All families deserve access to affordable child care, not only those who choose licensed care. Currently, less than a third of Ontario children under age six are in the licensed sector. Ontario parents rely on a variety of child care options to meet their needs. Independent home child care providers have responded to these unique needs by offering consistent, flexible, high quality child care programs while contributing to Ontario's economy as small business owners. This plan leaves thousands of Ontario families at a huge disadvantage and supports one group of women at the expense of another."

You can find a copy of our statement here: **<https://ccprn.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Statement-RE-Ontario-Child-Care-Plan.pdf>**

Join CCPRN:

Consider becoming a CCPRN member--we are stronger together! Increased membership helps to present a united front and positively impacts advocacy work. Not a member? Parents, providers, and interested community members can join here: **<https://ccprn.com/join-ccprn/>**

Parent-driven Petition: Make unlicensed home daycare providers eligible for the 10\$ a day plan in Ontario:

Initiated by an Ontario parent, anyone interested can add their signature to the petition which states that "parents who choose an unlicensed daycare should still be eligible for Ontario funding for the 10\$ a day daycare."

You can find the petition here: **<https://www.change.org/p/make-unlicensed-home-daycare-providers-eligible-for-the-10-a-day-plan-in-ontario>**

Consider joining the Coalition of Independent Childcare Providers of

Ontario Facebook Group: "A coalition of home daycare providers, parents and allies whose mandate it is to educate Ontario's public and government about Independent Home Child Care, highlighting the vital role of independent providers within the childcare community of Ontario."

They are looking for help with advocacy work--to strategize, motivate, and seek out people in power who are willing to listen. You can find their Facebook Group here: **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CICPO>**



CCPRN will continue to gather information and share updates as they become available. If you have any questions please contact julie@ccprn.com.

In the meantime, take a breath, and pause for a minute as you read and reflect on this:

In my line of work...

I am trusted and looked up to.
And I'm always in good company.

I'm relied on for guidance, negotiations
and conflict resolution.

*The value of such skills is measured
in smiles, giggles and hugs.*

I strive to improve my skills
and help others achieve their goals.

Which is what makes my career so rewarding.

I am an Independent Professional Caregiver.
Child care is my business. Caring is my strength.



 **CHILD CARE PROVIDERS
RESOURCE NETWORK**
OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
LE RÉSEAU DES INTERVENANTES EN
SERVICES DE GARDE À DOMICILE D'OTTAWA

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