



child Care



Currently in Ontario, less than 11% of children under the age of 12 have access to high quality, regulated child care. Ontario's investments in early learning and child care services were slashed by \$152 million under the Harris/Eves government. In the 2003 election, Dalton McGuinty promised to invest 300 million in provincial dollars. Despite an escalating crisis in the child care system and repeated calls for that promise to be kept, the provincial government failed to meet its commitments. Communities across Ontario continue to have inadequate child care funding today – with increasing parent fees, cuts to program funding, and uncertainty that existing spaces will remain viable for much longer.

Since 2003 the McGuinty Liberals:

- Blamed its lack of action on the cancellation of the 2005 Federal Liberal program brought in during the dying days of its government. However, there was no Federal program prior to 2005.
- In the last Provincial budget, the government announced the first provincial money allocated to child care since the Harris/Eves cuts – \$25 million this year and \$50 million next year – but this falls \$275 million short of the funding promised in 2003. While new provincial and federal dollars are welcome, they do very little to rebuild the damage of the past 12 years – including the \$152 million cut during the Harris/Eves years.
- Did not include in their 2007 provincial budget the \$97 million federal budget child care transfer monies.
- After months of pressure from child care advocates, announced the \$97 million federal transfer monies for child care will go directly into funding child care spaces and a small improvement in child care sector workers' wages.

What Women Need

Women need child care that is regulated, high quality, universal, accessible and non-profit. Women need a seamless, affordable, coordinated and inclusive service that meets a diversity of needs regardless of income, job status, geography and culture.

Ask Your Local Candidate:

- Do you and your party support an immediate increase in funding to build new child care spaces, sustain existing child care spaces, and assure reasonable salaries, benefits and working conditions for child care workers?
- Do you and your party support a publicly funded, regulated child care system that is seamless, affordable, coordinated and inclusive for all women?
- Do you and your party recognize early childhood education and care as a core public service and regard it as having the same status as health care and education?
- Will you and your party commit that all federal child care monies will go into creating and maintaining child care spaces and improving the salaries, benefits and working conditions of child care workers?

For more details go to the following websites:

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care www.childcareontario.org
Code Blue for Child Care www.buildchildcare.ca

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