

MPP Meeting Toolkit

A guide to contacting elective representatives & advocating for child care

#universalchildcare ISpossible

#ChildCareNow

#VoteChildCare

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Why & How do we influence Government?

YOU are so important to elected representatives, including Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs). They are voted in by community members like you, and must be responsive to your needs. It is their responsibility to listen to your concerns and take action.

The federal government entrusted the implementation of a CWELCC program to the provinces and territories. Child care is still a provincial responsibility. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Ontario government to ensure families have access to affordable child care.



How to find your MPP

To find your MPP, you can visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website: <https://www.ola.org/en/members>

Or scan



Click “Find an MPP” and you will see a search tool where you can enter your full address to find to find your MPP’s information.

Find an MPP

Search for an MPP by name or by street address and postal code. You can also filter the results to view MPPs by party.

MPP name

Enter the MPP's first and/or last name

Address and postal code

111 Wellesley St. W, M7A 1A2

Filter by party

Clear all

Search



Constituency office

Suite 400
37 Sandiford Dr.
Stouffville, ON L4A 3Z2
Tel.: 905-642-2588
Fax: 905-642-1618
Toll free: 1-866-531-9551

Ministry office

Ministry of Education
15th Floor
438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5
Tel.: 416-325-2600
Fax: 416-325-6348

Hon. Paul Calandra is the current Ontario Minister of Education tasked with child care. EMAIL: paul.calandra@pc.ola.org

Email Template

Hello,

My name is ____ and I live in your riding.

I am a (*choose one*) parent/family member/community member of ____.

Across Canada, thousands of families are benefiting from the rollout of the \$10/day child care plan. However, the Ontario government must do more to implement this program effectively to build a child care system with affordable fees, decent work for ECEs and enough spaces for every family.

(*Choose one*)

As a parent with child care whose fees have gone down, I am able to ____.

or

As a parent without child care, I am experiencing ____.

or

As a community member who cares about children and working families ____.

In order to build more spaces that are high quality, we need a real workforce strategy, including benefits, pensions, and higher wages for child care workers in order to recruit and retain enough staff. That is the only way to expand access for more families.

We are asking you to:

- Sign onto the CWELCC extension set to expire in March 2026 for Ontario
- Implement a workforce strategy with a wage grid for RECEs starting at \$35/hour and \$25/hour for non-RECE staff.

I would like a response and the chance to voice my concerns to you directly.

Sincerely,



Phone Script

Hello,

My name is ____ and I live in your riding.

I am a (*choose one*) parent/family member/community member of ____.

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I would like a response and the chance to voice my concerns to you directly.
Thank you.



Why should ECEs & Child Care Workers contact MPPs?

More than ever before, early learning and child care has experienced increased visibility and funding, yet the workforce retention and re-attraction crisis has blunted the effectiveness of the \$10/day plan.

ECEs and Child Care Workers have been historically and systemically left out of system building to the detriment of everyone. Now is the time for the workforce to be meaningfully consulted and their recommendations for appropriate compensation, including benefits and pensions, be implemented so that they have the fulfilling careers they deserve.



Why should parents & families contact MPPs?



Parents and families have important lived experience and expertise that MPPs do not have. It is invaluable for you to share your perspective on issues that impact your life.

CWELCC has been truly life changing for families by reducing fees. However, early years professionals urgently require a workforce strategy with improved compensation elements to curb the retention crisis in child care.

As advocates, parents are well positioned to communicate the needs of the sector to ensure expansion and high quality education and care.



Why should child care centres contact MPPs?

Child care centres have rich experiences and insight to how programs should be delivered. In each child care setting, there are experts on pedagogy, budgets, regulations, and more.

Centring the expertise of early years professionals is critical to creating the best child care policies for our sector.

Child care centres are also hubs of their communities, bringing together many diverse families and community members. Your interactions with children, suppliers, and neighbourhood institutions places you in a uniquely qualified position to advise on program delivery. There is no better consultation partner for government than the front line staff and the operators who provide the services.



Meeting with your MPP

Booking an in-person or virtual meeting with your elected representative is an opportunity to share key messages and advocate for people in your community. Below are some pointers to guide your discussion.

Before the Meeting

- Review materials to remind yourself of the main messages you want to share.
- If you are able, include notes about the specific situation in your community.
- Know the allotted time for your meeting.
- Decide who will say what in your team and how you will stay within the allotted time. Decide who will take some short notes.
- Have copies of the material (articles, fact sheet, etc) to be left with the MPP.
- Plan to be at the meeting location 10 or 15 minutes early for in-person meetings or 5 minutes early for virtual meetings.

During the Meeting

- Right at the start, introduce yourself and confirm how long you have for the meeting.
- Take the lead. You asked for the meeting, so you can lead the conversation.
- Listen well but do not let the MPP talk so much that you do not get a chance to share.
- Treat all questions calmly and seriously. You can learn a lot from the questions MPPs ask.

During the Meeting (continued)

- If you are asked a question you do not know the answer to, do not make up a response on the spot. Tell the politician you will get back to them with an answer.
- For the note taker: notes do not have to be exhaustive, but write down if the MPP commits to something or refuses to commit to something.
- Ask if the MPP will take a photo.
- Do not prolong the meeting beyond the allotted time unless the politician indicates that they want the discussion to continue.

After the Meeting

- Debrief and celebrate with your team right after the meeting!
- Send any photos to info@childcareontario.org and to info@aeceo.ca and let us know if we can share the photos on social media.
- Share with us any questions raised by the politician that you could not answer and any extra information that was requested.
- Flag any commitments that were made to you by the politician.
- *Don't let the contact end after one meeting.* Send the MPP a thank you email, offer to introduce them to others involved, or to have follow-up meetings, attend a community roundtable, etc.
- Report back to the AECEO and OCBCC using this form to let us know how it went!

CARE OUT LOUD

MPP MEETINGS




Child Care MPP Meetings

If you have met with your MPP or other elected representative, we would like to hear how it went!

Please share any photos with us at info@aeceo.ca

Post Meeting Form



Myth Busting

Myth #1: Child care would be more accessible to families if they received money directly.

In Ontario and across Canada, a child care system is being built. This means that all children should have access to a child care space, allowing parents and families to choose if they wish to access this space. Paying families directly for child care costs does not ensure spaces are built where they are needed, like in your community, or promote the development of an equitable system that can be accessed by everyone. Cash payments to families also don't stop child care fees from going up and up. All families deserve to have the choice to access child care, rather than competing for limited, unaffordable child care spaces.

Myth #2: If ECEs are paid more then my child care will be more expensive.

The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan has de-coupled parent fees from ECE wages. This means that parent fees can decrease to \$10/day and ECE wages can increase without conflict. Public funding has allowed for both families and ECEs to benefit from the child care system. Unfortunately in Ontario, ECE wages have not increased to the \$30-40/hour recommended by the AECEO and OCBCC. This means that there have been challenges retaining qualified staff in the field, and therefore centres have been running below capacity. In order to ensure current child care spaces are filled and expansion continues, ECEs and child care workers wages must be increased. It's already happening in other provinces, where they have lowered child care fees and introduced wage grids and pensions to recruit and retain more ECEs.

Myth Busting

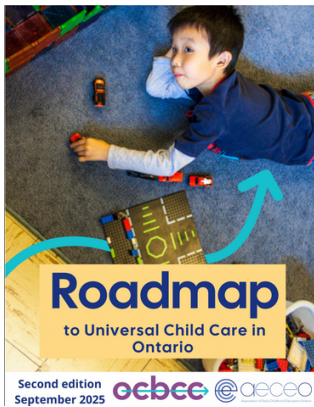
Myth #3: I need child care more than other families who are only accessing care to socialize their children. I deserve to be first in line!

Accessing child care when you really need it can be a stressful experience. Many families in Ontario are struggling to get the care they need, and sometimes it can feel unfair that some families have spaces when others do not. All children and families deserve access to high quality, affordable child care in their local community. By prioritizing building a child care system, not just spaces for individual families, all children and families will be supported. Advocating for increased funding and positive change in Ontario can help manage the stress of the current system. Working together we can build a system where all children can get the care and education they deserve.

Myth #4: Child care is controlled by the federal government so we don't need to advocate the provincial government.

Under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan, the federal government provides public funding to the provincial and territorial government. The provincial and territorial governments then decide how to spend that funding on child care. Child care is still a provincial responsibility. Although there are some rules, the provincial and territorial government have a lot of influence and control over the spending. This is evident in the disparities in pay, working conditions, and access to child care throughout Canada. In Ontario, it is so important for parents and families to advocate to their MPPs for changes that support communities and the workforce.

Fact Sheet & Talking Points



AECEO OCBCC
Roadmap Sept 2025

The AECEO OCBCC Roadmap to Universal Child Care in Ontario (September 2025) was created in consultation with our members, partners and allies. The Roadmap sets out a hopeful vision of an early learning and child care system with affordable fees, decent work and pay for educators, and access for all, and recommends policy interventions to make that vision a reality.

How can the provincial government support successful implementation of CWELCC?

- Immediately **increase provincial general operating funding** by at least \$500 million and provide predictable, year-over-year increases tied to inflation.
- **Establish a provincial wage grid. Introduce benefit and pension plans.** Establish an Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Commission to develop a long-term strategy.
- Implement a **costs-based funding** formula that provides full and sufficient public funding to child care programs.
- Cap fees at \$10/day and introduce a sliding fee scale
Remove work and study requirements for subsidy.
- Establish a Capital Funding program to support development of non-profit & public child care in schools & community.

- Most urgently, Ontario must address the workforce retention crisis. Without qualified well compensated early years professionals, **expansion for waitlist families** will not be realized. The most recent Ontario Auditor General's report estimated **10 000 new ECEs are needed**.
- Ontario's implementation of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan has improved affordability and access to child care for many families, but issues like staffing shortages, stalled space creation, and **inequities in school-age child care persist**.

ELCC System Building

1. Enshrine the right of all young children to access regulated, inclusive, culturally safe ELCC.
2. Revise the Access & Inclusion Framework to feature an actionable Inclusion Strategy, with clear goals and an evaluation process.
3. Recognize the right of Urban Indigenous organizations to administer & deliver urban Indigenous ELCC.
4. Integrate the broader early years and child care sector together with equitable funding, wages and fees.
5. Create a Steering Committee to embed anti-racist and anti-oppressive policy and pedagogy.

Funding approach

6. Harmonize and enhance the ELCC funding formula to provide full and sufficient operating funding.
7. Maintain and strengthen caps on profit-making.
8. Collect ELCC fees centrally by SSMs & Indigenous governments & governance organizations.
9. Include ELCC facilities in school space funding.
10. Federal funds should not displace provincial funds.

Affordability strategy

11. Cap ELCC fees at a maximum of \$10/day per family.
12. Replace the current subsidy system with a barrier-free sliding fee scale down to \$0. In the short-term, while this is being developed, increase access to the current subsidy system and remove work and study criteria.

Workforce strategy

13. Wage grid starting at \$35-45/hr for RECEs and \$28/hr for non-RECE staff, and ensure annual increases.
14. Extended health benefits and a defined benefit pension plan.
15. Workforce Advisory Committee to address working conditions.
16. Enhance pathways to acquiring and upgrading qualifications.

Expansion strategy

17. Permanent moratorium on new for-profit child care.
18. Asset lock to require that all new ELCC facilities that are developed remain public child care assets.
19. Inventory of available public lands for ELCC. Mandate & support SSMs to publicly plan expansion.
20. Prioritize expansion in underserved communities and populations.
21. Co-develop a strategy to expand access to Indigenous-led ELCC.

Become a Member

Consider becoming a member of the OCBCC & AECEO.
Your support helps us continue doing this important work.



childcareontario.org/membership



aeceo.ca/membership



aeceo

Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario

