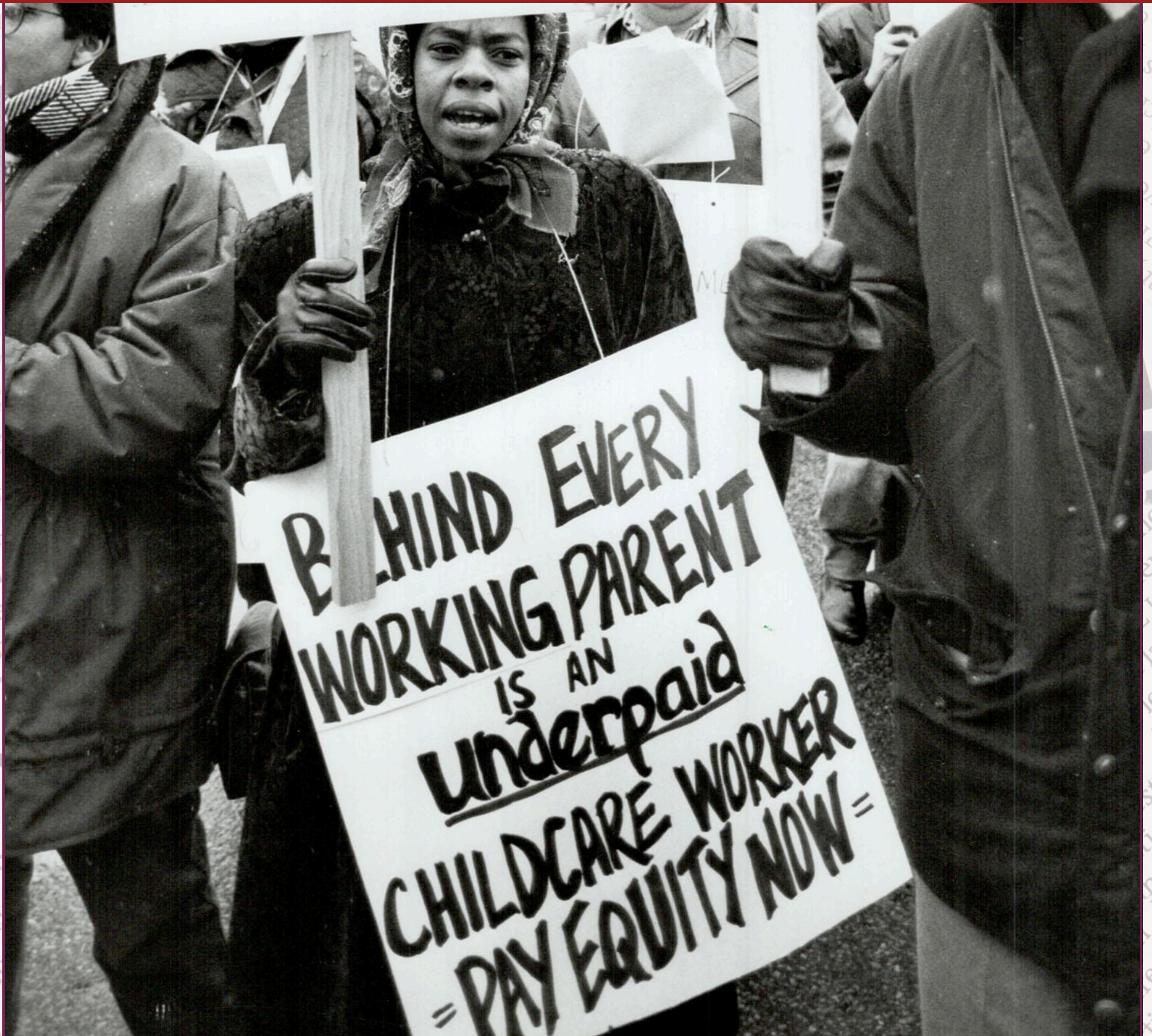


May 1st is International Workers' Day

What does May Day have to do with ECE?



Child Care Worker Picketing @ Queen's Park in 1992 Photo by Andrew Stawicki (Toronto Star) via Toronto Public Library Archives



ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ONTARIO
Representing Ontario ECEs since 1950.

International Workers' Day (also known as May Day) is recognized on the first day of May every year. May Day commemorates the struggles of workers and is observed around the world by unions, community coalitions and worker-focused organizations. It's a day to celebrate workers' victories and show solidarity, often marked by rallies, parades, and demonstrations.

Lack of child care infrastructure is a major issue for workers.

Lack of affordable child care affects workers across sectors, and is a **major barrier for workers, especially for women**, who are often unable to access full-time employment, pursue further education or career advancement opportunities due to not being able to find care for their children.



Women's rights groups, labour organizations and social policy specialists around the world cite **increasing access to early childhood education and care as an important element in addressing worker shortages**, advancing equal opportunities for women and closing the gender wage gap.



ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ONTARIO
Representing Ontario ECEs since 1950.

Child care is not possible without early childhood educators & child care workers.

Early childhood educators and child care workers continue to leave the profession due to low wages, lack of support and precarious working conditions, causing ongoing staffing shortages, which can lead to the interruption of child care services and make it impossible for new spaces to be created.



Fair pay, better working conditions, increased supports for staff are key to increasing availability of child care.



It's not just us saying this! The International Labour Organization recommends the promotion of **decent work for ECE personnel as a means of ensuring universal access** to high-quality ECE services. Wages for workers in the child care sector impact every single part of the economy because **parents cannot work without child care.**

The labour movement, and child care advocacy are deeply connected.

Canadian labour has historically been a key player in child care advocacy, with unions being some of the strongest supporters of a publicly funded child care system in Canada.

The AECEO is grateful for our community partners (in the labour movement and beyond) and their support in our advocacy, policy and community work.



1980 demonstration organized by the OCBCC



Care Counts, Wages Matter: Pay equity for early childhood educators and child care workers is a gender justice issue.

Women's equality depends on a **strong, reliable and stable child care system that values the workforce** with fair compensation. Equal Pay Day 2026 focused on child care, recognizing it as the backbone of the economy.



ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ONTARIO
Representing Ontario ECEs since 1950.

Fair wages for the child care workforce is the only way to end waitlist stress for working parents.



The care that ECEs and child care workers provide makes quality come alive in early learning. Their work is the foundation of a strong system, but a growing workforce shortage is blunting the effectiveness of the \$10-a-day child care plan. Decent work and fair pay are essential so ECEs can stay in the jobs they love, build careers, and deliver quality child care for all families. Join us in fighting for change in the Ontario ECE sector!

This May Day, join us at Circle Time with the AECEO

On a very special episode of our podcast, Rachel welcomes David Kidd, who participated in the occupation of Campus Community Co-Operative Day Care Centre in the 1970s. Join us to learn about David's experience, and about his radical mother, Margaret Kidd, who was one of Canada's first early childhood educators and helped establish the first ever federally-funded child care, a wartime day nursery in Montreal in 1942.



Listen to episode 19 on YouTube or Spotify



@AssociationOfECEsOntario



Circle Time with the AECEO



ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ONTARIO
Representing Ontario ECEs since 1950.