

May 1st



International Workers' Day & ECE

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 by unions, community coalitions and worker-focused organizations. It's a day to celebrate workers' victories, show solidarity, often marked by rallies, parades, and demonstrations around the world.

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

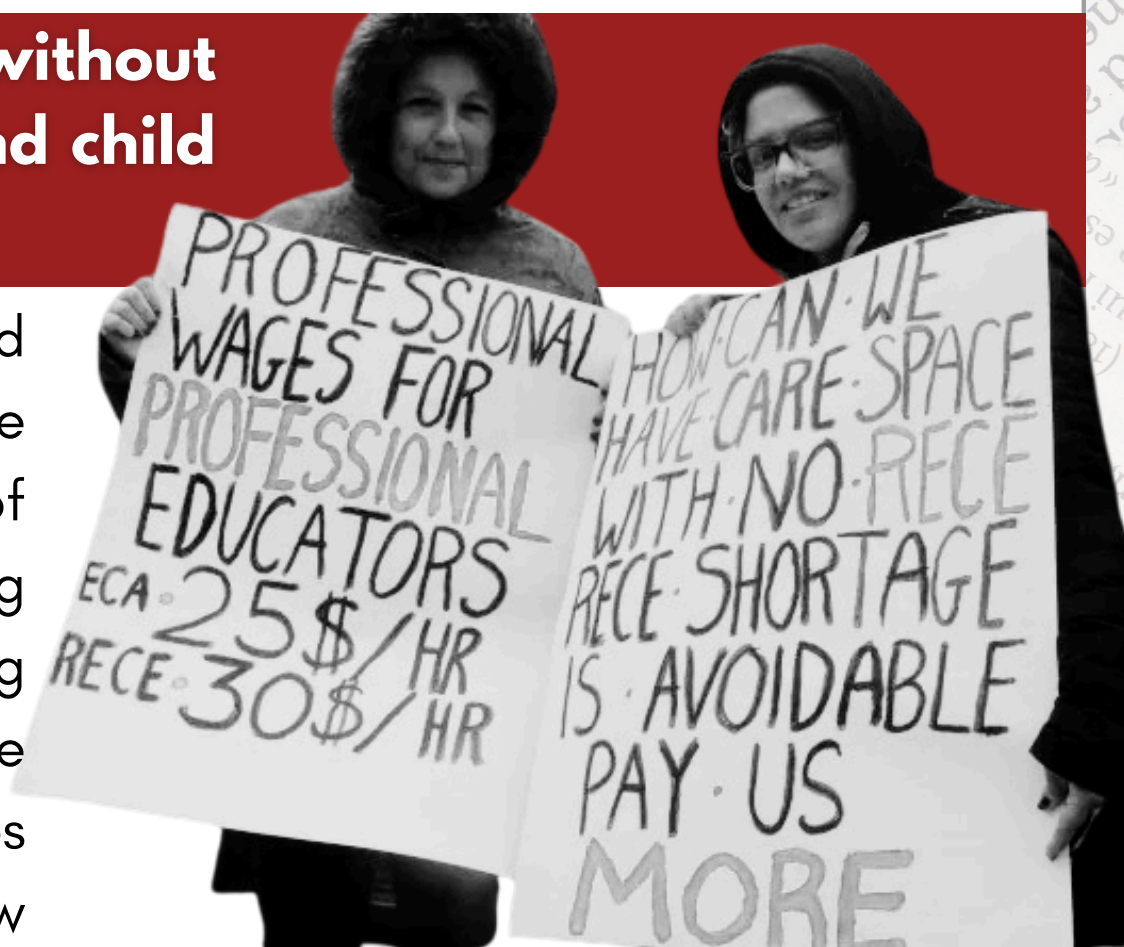
Lack of affordable child care affects workers across sectors, and is a **major barrier for workers, especially for women**, who are often unable to access full-time employment, pursue further education or career advancement opportunities due to not being able to find care for their children.



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.

Child care is not possible without early childhood educators and 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.



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.



Learn more about the AECEO policy positions and how we are working to support the ECE workforce by reading our publications:

- [Roadmap to Universal Child Care in Ontario](#)
- [Position Paper on a Publicly Funded Salary Scale](#)

The AECEO is YOUR professional association. Join our mailing list and become a member to get involved with our work!