

Childcare



The Issue

Manitoba does not have enough childcare spaces. Childcare centres have trouble keeping staff because the wage they can pay is too low to keep qualified caregivers. Wait times for space is 15 months. Our partner, Make Poverty History Manitoba, says that 17,000 new licensed, funded non-profit child care spaces are needed. Priority should be given to low socio-economic neighbourhoods with free spaces offered to families living below the poverty line.

The Province's Role

In Manitoba, it is too hard to qualify for a subsidy. A two-parent family with two preschool children must earn less than \$22,504 a year to qualify for the maximum subsidy. Even with the maximum subsidy, a low income parent will pay over \$500 per year, per child. Today barely 7,000 Manitoban children in a provincial system with 36,779 licensed spaces qualify for any fee subsidy at all.

The province is also responsible for licensing childcare centres. Even parents who live above the poverty line struggle to find spaces and must pay for-profit centres stretching their household incomes.

Questions to Ask

- What will you and your party do to increase the availability of affordable childcare for low-income families?
- What will you do to ensure that childcare providers are paid a fair wage that reflects their qualifications?
- Do you support the addition of 17,000 new non-profit childcare spaces by 2021 with priority given to low socio-economic neighborhoods, and will you immediately provide a full subsidy for families for living below the poverty line?