



What's Happening?

It is getting more expensive to raise children in Canada. For many families, child care is the 2nd largest expense after rent. CCPA's [report](#) shows child care costs have risen faster than inflation in 61% of Canadian cities. Parents with younger children pay the highest fees.

Why is This Happening?

As well as the high cost, child care can be hard to find no matter how much money you make. There is simply a lack of child care spaces largely due to low wages for early learning educators. The current federal government has introduced a plan to eventually get child costs to \$10 a day. Manitoba has signed on to this deal. The newly signed plan by the Province will set a wage threshold of \$25 per hour for workers who have their Early Childhood Educator II classification.

Given how hard low wage workers have been hit by the pandemic, truly affordable and accessible child care is essential for a just recovery.

There are thousands of children who are on a waiting list for affordable child care. The 2018 CCPA [report](#) showed that an estimated 776,000 children (44% of all non-school-aged children) in Canada live in child care 'deserts' (where childcare availability is scarce). More regulated spaces need to be created to accommodate the need. More public funding and a workforce strategy are both needed if well-educated early childhood educators with decent salaries and benefits are to be attracted and retained in the field. High-quality, regulated child care is in the interest of all Canadians.

Questions to Ask

- How will your party improve on the existing federal child care plan?
How will your party ensure that there are enough accredited and subsidized child care spaces?
- How will your party ensure that the needs of marginalized communities, different ethno-cultural communities as well as those in precarious and after usual working hours have access to accredited and subsidized child care spaces?

Not Sure Who to Vote For Overall? Why not check out [CBC's Vote Compass](#) to take a quick survey to help figure out which party best represents your priorities?