

Provincial
Election
Vote
June 12!

HALTON RESIDENTS VOTE



Do you have a hard time finding quality, affordable child care?

You're not alone.

The Ontario government has recently introduced new supports for families and children with the implementation of full day early learning for 4-5 year olds.

But child care continues to be unaffordable and hard to find for those who need it most

With almost 1 in 20 Halton families living in poverty, access to high quality, affordable, licensed child care is more important than ever. But without investment in child care by our provincial government, it is likely the disparities in the affordability and quality of child care facilities will grow. **Here's what child care looks like in Halton:**

- Halton has a 500 space shortage for licensed childcare spaces
- Current supply of childcare spaces can meet the needs in some communities but not others such as Milton
- Shortage of spaces for before and after school child care in all Halton communities
- Low wages for early childhood educators (ECEs) is creating a shortage of employees in the sector

More funding from the Province could limit child care fees for parents, increase staff wages, and create additional facilities to reduce long wait lists. The Province has been increasing the child care budget incrementally over the years, but a long-term, viable plan is needed. For instance, Ontario can follow Quebec's and Manitoba's examples to develop a five-year plan to ensure the child care budget is not prone to underfunding on a yearly basis.

Ask your candidates:

- Will your party support an early learning and child care system that is affordable and accessible to all?
- How will your party improve wages, benefits and working conditions for child care workers?
- Will your party support a long-term fully funded child care plan?

Resources:

Child Care Resource Unit: www.childcarecanada.org

Middle Childhood Matters Coalition: <http://www.middlechildhoodmatterstoronto.on.ca/>

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care: www.childcareontario.org/

Our Kids Network: www.ourkidsnetwork.ca



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How, where, when & why to vote:
Elections Ontario
www.wemakevotingeasy.ca

This fact sheet was adapted from a series produced by Social Planning Toronto.

CHILD CARE