



ON JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>

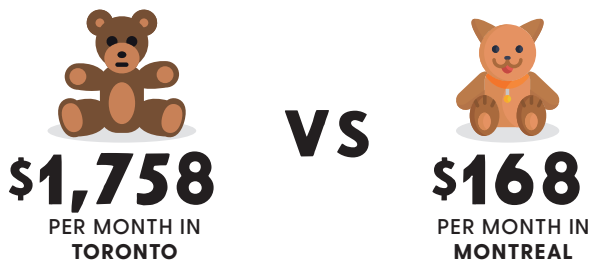
# CHILD CARE IS ON THE BALLOT HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR MANY FAMILIES LIVING IN ONTARIO, QUALITY CHILD CARE IS UNAFFORDABLE OR UNAVAILABLE. FOR SOME FAMILIES IT IS BOTH. ONTARIO HAS THE HIGHEST CHILD CARE FEES IN CANADA.

## THE COST OF CHILD CARE FEES

In 2017, child care fees for infants in **Toronto averaged \$1,758 per month, compared to only \$168 per month in Montreal.** Four out of the five most expensive cities for child care in Canada are in Ontario.

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY CHILD CARE FEES



## ISSUES WITH ACCESS

Across the province, only **one in five children under age 4 have access to licensed child care.**



## WAITING TIMES

**Ninety-five percent (95%) of child care centres in Toronto have waiting lists.** Many cities across Ontario have similar waitlists. Low-income families can receive subsidies to make child care more affordable to cost as low as \$90 per month in Toronto.

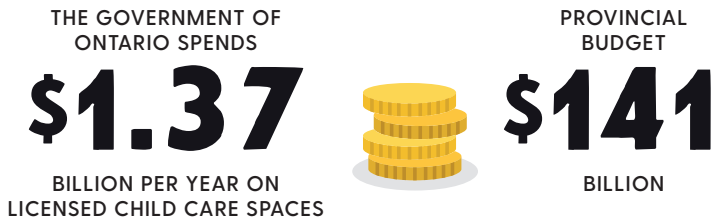


But many families are on long waiting lists to receive these subsidies, **17,500 people in Toronto alone.** More families need subsidies than are available.

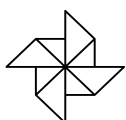


## RIGHT NOW, THIS IS BEING DONE

The Government of Ontario spends **\$1.37-billion per year on almost 390,000 licensed child care spaces** for children up to age 12, including **about 72,000 licensed child care spaces in Toronto.**



**Child care professionals are among the lowest paid workers in community services. They are paid an average of \$16 per hour.** Meanwhile a nurses aid makes on average \$19.94, a child and youth worker earns \$18 per hour, a construction labourer earns \$19.33 per hour, and a fitness instructor earns \$24.30 per hour.



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHY IS HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE IMPORTANT?

The early years of a child are significant. By providing high quality child care by trained early childhood educators, children are set up for success later in life. “High quality, affordable daycare supports child development and assists working parents whose labour fuels the local economy and helps to fight poverty.” Quality child care also allows parents to work. This is important for women who are often primary caregivers for children at home.

## HOW DOES HIGH-QUALITY AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE HELP GENDER EQUITY?

Child care allows women to participate in the labour force and it provides a path out of poverty. In 2016, Ontario’s Gender Wage Gap Strategy Steering Committee emphasized the importance of child care in closing the gender wage gap. In Quebec, affordable child care helped 70,000 mothers join the workforce and it boosted the economy by \$1.75 for every dollar invested by the government.

## WHAT ABOUT MAKING HIGH QUALITY AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE AVAILABLE TO ALL FAMILIES?

Many countries make high quality low-cost child care available to all families. In Canada, Quebec provides subsidized child care to all families. The amount of the subsidy depends on a family’s income. In Ontario, high quality child care for everyone is also possible and needed. The additional cost of providing subsidized health care in Quebec was less than other programs that support low income families. Quebec’s increased tax revenue for working parents created funds for universal subsidized health care.

## WHAT EDUCATION IS REQUIRED OF CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS?

All supervisors of licensed child care centres must be members of the College of Early Childhood Educators. For any licensed age group child care centre, employees must also be members of the College of Early Childhood Educators or be approved by the director. For licensed child care centres ages 9-14, employees must have a diploma in child and youth care or a diploma in recreation and leisure services, or be a member of the Ontario College of Teachers.

## WHAT ABOUT TAX CREDITS TO HELP FAMILIES PAY FOR CHILD CARE?

Tax credits can help families pay for child care but current proposals would not cover the full cost of child care for most families. Tax credits do not solve long waitlists or ensure that high quality licensed child care is available for families.

## ARE PARENTS REQUIRED TO PAY A FEE TO PUT A CHILD ON A WAITLIST FOR CHILD CARE?

No. The Ontario government made this practice illegal in 2016.

## IF YOU ARE NOT EMPLOYED OR IN SCHOOL, CAN YOU QUALIFY FOR A TORONTO CHILD CARE SUBSIDY?

If you are not employed or in school, and you or your child have a documented special need, you are still eligible for a Toronto Child Care Subsidy.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LICENSED AND UNLICENSED CHILD CARE?

Child care centres and home child care are different. All child care centres are required to be licensed by the government. Licensed home child care providers are required to meet government standards for safety and staff qualifications. Unlicensed home child care providers are not required to meet those same standards.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CANDIDATE

- + What is your party’s plan to ensure that quality child care is affordable and accessible for all families living in Ontario?
- + How will your party reduce the waitlist for child care spaces and subsidies for low-income families in Ontario?
- + What is your party’s plan to ensure that child care workers are paid fairly?
- + When will your party address subsidy needs for all low-income families?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care:  
[www.childcareontario.org](http://www.childcareontario.org)

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT’S ON THE BALLOT, VISIT [APATHYISBORING.COM](http://APATHYISBORING.COM)**

ON JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>  
**VOTE IN THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION  
FOR BETTER CHILD CARE**