

Affordable, Accessible, Quality Child Care for All

#VoteChildCare2019

Like a three-legged stool, quality child care needs no less than three solid foundations to function and stand strong:

Affordability — Accessibility — Quality.

If even one leg is missing—the system topples. Each leg depends on the other.

All three legs create the support structure—the foundations—of quality child care.



In federal election 2019, here is what Canada's federal parties are promising about #VoteChildCare2019. Are they building a solid foundation that supports the whole stool? Check out their plans here:

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AFFORDABILITY

Child care fees throughout most of Canada are too expensive for most families, generally costing parents more per year than university tuition—keeping in mind that families have 18 years to save for post-secondary education. Affordable child care in Canada means that each province and territory would set fees as low as \$0 for some families and a scaled calculation of affordable fees for others. It is a combination of public funds (supply side funding) along with parent fees that properly support the operations of child care programs. It is not one-size fits all.

ACCESSIBILITY

Also known as expanding the availability of child care in Canada. Canada's families need access to child care—an essential element of Canadian family life. Accessing child care should not be a lottery, given to chance. Benefits to society include gender equity, financial security for families and their ability to contribute to Canada's economy. But most importantly, access to quality child care supports the well-being of Canada's children. Consequently, child care needs to be planned and publicly managed—ensuring that no matter where a family resides, they are able to access a quality child care program that works for their needs.

QUALITY

Canada's child care professionals are at the heart of quality. Simply put, Canada's federal government, working in partnership with provincial and territorial governments as well as Indigenous nations to support a well-paid, educated Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) workforce in order to ensure quality. Governments cannot create spaces without investment to Canada's ELCC workforce—or, they take a band-aid approach, providing one-time grants or wage subsidies. These approaches change based on the whim of the government of the day and are not sustainable. A comprehensive workforce strategy will enhance quality and support the over 250,000 people (of which over 240,000 are women) who work in Canada's ELCC sector.



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