



CANADIAN
CHILD CARE
FEDERATION
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CANADIENNE DES
SERVICES DE GARDE
À L'ENFANCE



Affordable, Accessible, Quality Child Care for All

Federal Election 2019 Child Care Platforms -- Commitments to Child Care in Canada

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, this is what Canada's federal parties are promising about #VoteChildCare2019. Are they building a solid foundation that supports the whole stool? See the highlights of what they are promising below. For even more details, please click on the party logo.

For a full copy of the CCCF's one-page election resource, click here: [Affordable, Accessible, Quality Child Care for All](#)

Taking Care of Canada's Children

Greens will:

- Appoint a federal Children's Advocate to ensure that children's rights are protected. Far too many children are in care. Far too many children are in poverty. And far too many of those children are Indigenous. Every Canadian child deserves equal services, from early childhood education to adulthood. Families need child care. Universal child care is fundamental for women's equality – the "ramp to equality in the workplace for women."
- collaborate with provinces/territories, local communities, Indigenous communities and the child-care sector to ensure that a comprehensive short-, medium- and long-term policy road map – based on the principles of universality, affordability, quality, inclusivity and equity – finally becomes a reality.
- will immediately begin to ramp up federal child care funding to achieve the international benchmark of at least one per cent of GDP annually, adding an additional \$1 billion each year until this benchmark is reached with a mature ELCC system. We will eliminate GST on all construction costs related to child-care spaces.

Creating more spaces for kids

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Create up to 250,000 more before and after school spaces for kids under the age of ten
- Lower parents' fees by ten per cent across the country
- Dedicate a target of ten percent of the new spaces to provide more child care options for parents who work overtime, late shifts, or multiple jobs so they can count on help when they need it most
- Do this by nearly doubling the federal support we provide to the provinces and territories through the Early Learning and Child Care Framework, investing at least \$535 million more each year
- Give more support to our early childhood educators to ensure they are better paid and trained to take care of our kids. We will do this by investing at least \$25 million per year to help cover the costs for early childhood educators seeking further training, and lower tuition costs for people getting their early childhood educator degree
- Establish a national secretariat to work with the provinces and territories to lay the groundwork for a pan-Canadian child care system. The secretariat will help establish national standards for future agreements under the ELCC Framework, promote best practices, and advance gender equality. The secretariat will work closely with the recently established Expert Panel on Early Learning and Child Care.



Quality, affordable child care when you need it

The NDP will:

- Invest \$10 billion over four years and work with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments to create over 500,000 new licensed child care spaces in our first mandate, and establish a national, affordable early learning child care system that will deliver universal child care by 2030.
- Bring in legislation to enshrine our commitment to quality, affordable publicly funded child care into law, and set out the principles, conditions, and requirements for federal transfer payments to provinces (like the Canada Health Act). Quebec will be able to opt out with compensation.
- Commit \$10 million right away to an Affordable Child Care Action Fund and create a national child care secretariat to oversee the coordination of the work, and to collaborate with the provinces and territories on initiatives such as a workforce strategy and improved data sharing and research.



No specific child care platform mentioned



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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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