



Hon. Stephen Lecce, MPP King-Vaughan  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
[minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)  
sent via email

Oct. 25, 2021

Re: Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you to encourage the Ontario government to sign an agreement with the federal government on Early Learning and Child Care. The Canadian Federation of University Women have been advocating for this since 1972.

What we have been asking for:

- Affordable, accessible, quality early learning and child care (ELCC) delivered by Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) who are compensated according to their qualifications.

Why:

- Benefits to children:
  - Early learning is that first stage of curriculum-based public education that prepares the child for future schooling, giving children both numeracy and literacy skills along with social and behavioral skills
  - “In early learning and childcare programs staffed by early childhood educators, children develop foundational skills linked to thinking, language, and well-being that have been identified as the key to success in today’s rapidly changing world. Among those skills are communication, collaboration, creativity, persistence, problem-solving, and cognitive flexibility.”<sup>1</sup>
- Benefits to parents, in particular mothers:
  - Allowing women to continue earning and working, thus counteracting part of the penalty mothers pay with their life-long earnings<sup>2</sup>
  - Allowing for higher labour force participation, thus raising family incomes.
- Benefits to the economy

---

<sup>1</sup> *Beyond the economy: the human benefits of early learning and childcare programs*, Sept. 15, 2021  
<https://peopleforeducation.ca/our-work/beyond-the-economy-the-human-benefits-of-early-learning-and-childcare-programs/>

<sup>2</sup> Zhang, Xuelin, *Earnings of women with or without children* <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-001-x/2009103/article/10823-eng.htm>

- The economy needs educated, well-trained women in order to rebound and to deal with the upcoming generational changes in the work force
- In March 2021, Quebec had the country's highest level of labour force participation among women aged 25 to 54. In Quebec, the male-female gap in labour force participation was 4.7 percentage points, nationally gap is 7.5 percentage points. <sup>3</sup>
- Benefits to society in the promotion of gender equality
- Benefits to safety
  - Farm accidents led to the creation of an on-farm childcare program in the Durham Region now led by the Durham Farm & Rural Resources (DFRR) group
- Benefits to the communities
  - According to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), having accessible, affordable and quality child care "remains a critical need in rural areas across Ontario", services that recognize the needs of rural communities: seasonal fluctuations, scattered population with little public transportation

Could you please update us on the progress and measures being taken with respect to the early learning and child care agreement, so that we may in turn communicate this to our members?

Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit organization with 48 clubs across the province, which is affiliated with the National CFUW, having 96 clubs from coast to coast. Our main concerns include early learning and child care, quality public education, universal health care, quality long term care, a clean safe environment, the economic security of women as well as the prevention of violence against women.

Thank you and I look forward to your response.



Sandra Thomson  
 President, CFUW Ontario Council  
[president.cfuwontario@gmail.com](mailto:president.cfuwontario@gmail.com)  
[www.cfuwontcouncil.org](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.org)

---

<sup>3</sup> Editorial, *Are the Liberals right that child care 'pays for itself'? Maybe* [The Globe and Mail, April 22, 2021](#)