

CFUW Ontario Council: 2019-2020 “Women Helping Women”

October 5, 2019, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Federal Election: Ontario’s Status on Early Learning and Child Care

CFUW: Existing policy. The first mention was in 1972. It was suggested that advisory services for consultation on child health services be instituted

C.F.U.W. 2006 resolution by UWC Victoria (B.C.) and CFUW Status of Women Committee.

“Resolved: That the Canadian Federation of University Women reaffirm its existing policy and urge the Government of Canada to give priority to the creation of a quality, universally accessible and comprehensive early learning and child care program which emphasizes the development of the whole child. Funding for this initiative should involve all levels of government through cost-sharing mechanisms, as in other human services such as health, education and social programs.”

Present status in Ontario: waiting lists long

- affordable childcare problem province wide
- e.g. in 2018 median monthly fee in London was \$1,129.00; in Hamilton it was \$1,497.00 and in Toronto it was \$1,685.00!

(Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)

[Child Care Now \(CFUW has signed on as a partner\)](#)

Wants an “Affordable Child Care Plan for All by 2030”

What are we hearing from the Federal parties?

1. The New Democratic Party:
 - Will develop a partnership with the provinces and territories which are constitutionally responsible for delivery services

- Will establish a free or low cost child care by 2030,
 - \$10.00 per day top cost
 - Will spend \$10 billion over the next four years
 - Create 500,000 child care spaces
2. The Liberal Party:
- Increase the accessibility and affordability of before and after school care in elementary schools
 - Increase by 250,000 more spaces in 5-10 years
 - New funding \$535 million a year
3. The Conservative Party:
- No announcements (so far) regarding child care
 - Promise maternity benefits tax free
 - Sports, arts and learning fees can be claimed re taxes
4. The Green Party:
- A statement “Universal Child Care” is crucial to Women’s equality
 - Increase funding 1% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) annually to \$1 billion annually
 - No GST on Child Care Construction.

Stay tuned: there may be new announcements!

On behalf of Ontario Council, I attended the AGM of Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. The following report was prepared and delivered by Carolyn Ferns

Of note when these slides are reviewed:

- The cuts suggested have been put on hold until January 2020. This may give CFUW some room to examine centres in our municipalities and advocate on their behalf.
- Concern if the cuts go forward is that the province wants the municipalities to cost share, but it is VOLUNTARY
- Freeze on expansion
- Funding to FOR-PROFITS – the prioritization of non-profits has been removed