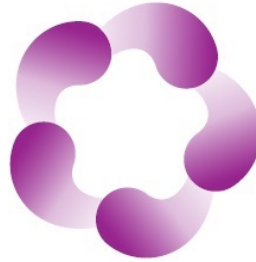


*COALITION ONTARIENNE POUR
de meilleurs services
éducatifs à l'enfance*



*ONTARIO COALITION FOR
Better Child Care*

COVID'S IMPACT ON WOMEN THROUGH A CHILD CARE LENS

Carolyn Ferns, November 2020

ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MOTHERS

“No recovery without a she-covery; no she-covery without child care.” – Armine Yalnizyan

- Qian and Fuller, using LFS data, found “gender employment gaps among parents of young children widened considerably between February and May 2020”.
- LFS data in June showed employment of women with pre-school children recovered at less than half the pace of men with pre-school children.
- RBC Economics report released Thursday shows that trend has continued.

IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF PARENTS

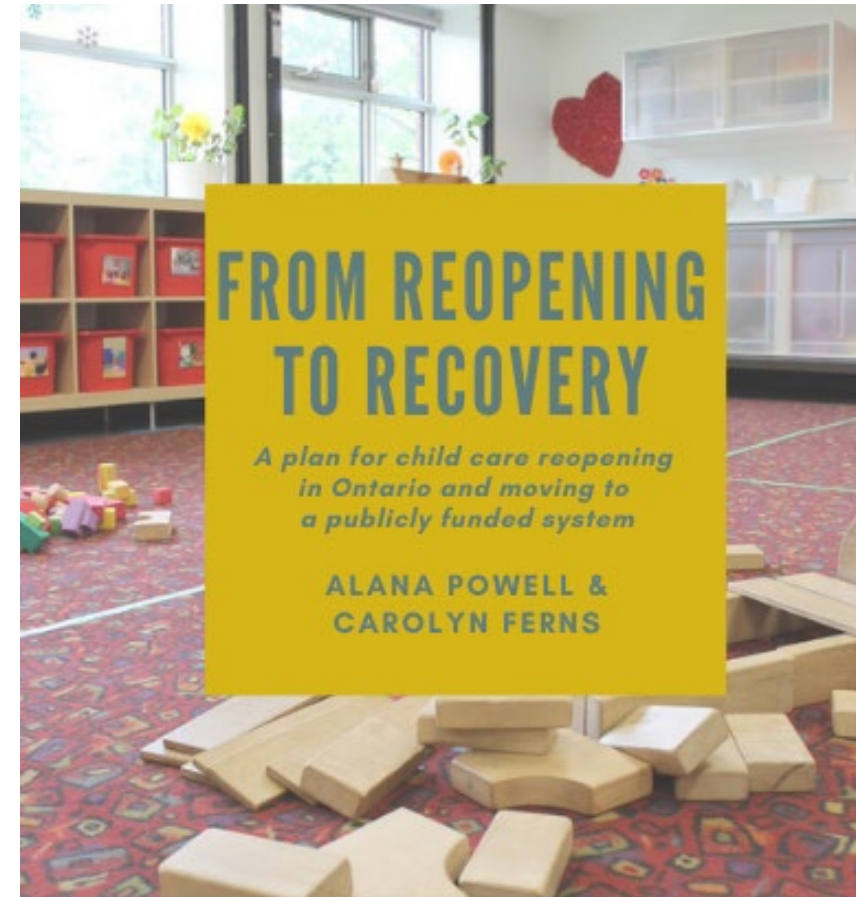
- StatsCan survey provided a snapshot:
 - Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of parents were concerned about their families, especially their ability to balance multiple responsibilities.
- The Ontario Parent Survey
 - Nearly 60% reported losing sleep and feeling overwhelmed
- CAMH
 - Parents, women among Canadians struggling most with mental health during pandemic.

IMPACTS ON THE CHILD CARE SECTOR DURING THE FIRST WAVE

- Closure of most licensed child care centres from March - June.
- Emergency child care for essential service workers starting at the end of March.
- Financial instability for child care centres during closure
- Widespread layoffs of educators; higher risk and responsibility (but not extra pay) for those working.

LEARNING FROM ONTARIO'S EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

- A first for Ontario: Emergency child care for essential service workers was free for families, operated extended hours, and had ratios/group sizes in line with international recommendations.
- “From Reopening to Recovery: A Child Care Plan for Ontario” called for the expansion of the emergency child care model as the basis for transforming the child care system.
- Instead we “snapped back” to the old, failed, market model of child care.



CURRENT ISSUES IN CHILD CARE

- For parents
 - Ensuring their children are safe
 - Qualifying for and accessing subsidy or affording full-fees.
 - Managing frequent absences
 - Paying fees for days absent.
- For ECEs and centres
 - Ensuring health and safety
 - Low enrolment
 - Financial instability and uncertainty
 - Increased workload, stress and burnout.

The child care challenges we are facing are long-term and need a national solution.

FEDERAL THRONE SPEECH PROMISE

“The Government will build on previous investments, learn from the model that already exists in Quebec, and work with all provinces and territories to ensure that high-quality care is accessible to all. There is broad consensus from all parts of society, including business and labour leaders, that the time is now.”

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Intergovernmental challenge
- Need to further build federal capacity and political will
- Ensuring that the plan going forward addresses 3 key issues simultaneously:
 1. **Affordability for parents;**
 2. **Decent work and pay for educators;**
 3. **Child care spaces for all.**