



Make Child Care More Accessible, Affordable, and High-Quality

Ontario YMCAs are **the largest providers of not-for-profit licensed child care** in the province, with more than **77,000 licensed spaces across 800 locations**. For over 55 years, YMCAs have delivered quality early learning programs that support children's development and enable parents – particularly women – to participate fully in the workforce.

As long-time advocates for a more universal, high-quality system, we are proud to implement the **Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)** plan and help Ontario families benefit from this transformative initiative.

Ontario YMCAs ask the Government of Ontario to:

- **Ensure continuity and stability of the CWELCC plan** by signing a long-term agreement so families can continue to benefit from affordable child care without interruption.

- **Refine the child care funding formula** through ongoing consultation with YMCAs and other non-profit partners. Progress would include: evaluating the impact on school-age fees, clarifying allowable expenses for municipalities and enabling large associations to submit regional rather than centre-by-centre plans and reports.
- **Address the Early Childhood Educator workforce shortage** by implementing a compensation grid that recognizes education and experience levels, and by extending compensation enhancements to ECE Assistants who play vital roles in program delivery.
- **Invest in capital expansion** for non-profit providers to reduce waitlists and meet growing demand in underserved communities. YMCAs are ready and able to expand, but require access to capital grants to do so.
- **Support inclusion in child care** by funding specialized staff and operator supports to better serve children with special needs and complex behaviours.
- **Reduce administrative burden** by establishing province-wide guidelines for municipal reporting and streamlining documentation requirements.



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