

Throne speech fails to reassure child care sector in its time of need ^[1]

Source: Manitoba Childcare Advocacy Association

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AVAILABILITY

Access online ^[2]

EXCERPTS

From the Throne Speech

"Protecting child care means making it more affordable and accessible for parents. Your government will develop a modern child care system and funding model that will enable and support the child care sector to grow in line with demand from Manitoba families, provide greater equity in the type of support given to families, and offer choices and flexibility that reflects the needs and challenges today's parents face."

The lack of details falls short of reassuring a fragile system whose pressure points pre-covid have only been intensified as a result of the pandemic. Joint media release from MCCA, Child Care Coalition of Manitoba and Child Care is Essential.



Throne Speech Fails Childcare Sector

October 7, 2020: For immediate release: Premier Pallister's government continues to fail Manitoba's children, families, and economy by refusing to adequately invest in the early learning and childcare sector. Inadequate funding meant the childcare sector was under severe strain before COVID hit; today, the sector is even more fragile. About one in seven programs that operated pre-COVID has not yet been able to reopen.

Our organizations call on the province to immediately increase operating grants to facilities **by at least 15 percent** to make up for the past four years of freeze and the increased costs due to public health requirements for safe operation during the pandemic.

Inadequate public investment means very slow growth in developing new services for the many families living in childcare deserts; a restrictive fee subsidy program that shuts out too many low-income families; low ability to recruit and high turnover among early childhood education professionals due to frozen wages; cutbacks for services for children with additional support needs; no enhancements for parent affordability; creeping privatization; and more.

The most effective way to finance quality early childhood care and education is through supply-side funding that directly supports programs and services. Despite widespread evidence, the provincial government has signalled it will ramp up indirect funding through demand-side approaches. This will inevitably increase the cost of childcare and ultimately establish a two-tiered system of services. Only direct supply-side funding can stabilize and grow quality childcare services for Manitoba.

St. James Montessori Director Laura Burlo says "We ask the provincial government to treat us like the essential service we are and to provide adequate funding so we may do our jobs caring for and educating the youngest Manitobans."

Region: Manitoba ^[3]

Tags: investment ^[4]

government ^[5]

accessibility ^[6]

time-need

Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/10/throne-speech-fails-reassure-child-care-sector-its-time-need> [2] <http://mccahouse.org/throne-speech-fails-reassure-child-care-sector-time-need/> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7857> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/investment> [5] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/8941> [6] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/accessibility>