

# Ontario election 2022: Focus on child care <sup>[1]</sup>

**Author:** YMCA

**Source:** YMCA of Greater Toronto

**Format:** Article

**Publication Date:** 11 May 2022

## AVAILABILITY

Access online [PDF] <sup>[2]</sup>

## EXCERPTS

YMCAs provide nearly 1/5th of all licensed child care in Ontario. With more than 76,000 licensed spaces at more than 800 locations, we are the largest provider of not-for-profit child care in the province. We are also a leading child care employer – with more than 7,500 child care staff.

The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement is a game-changer for working women, children and families. It will ensure that affordable, accessible and high-quality licensed child care will be a reality for more Ontario families.

## Recommendations

- A workforce strategy is needed to bring Ontario's plan to scale. This includes a purposeful plan to recruit, train and retain educators.
  - The compensation commitments in the agreement are a good first step, but will only assist 25% of the workforce. Additional wage enhancements are needed to raise compensation for all educators. High quality programs will not be possible without fair pay.
  - Targeted training programs are needed to bring new educators into the sector and make it easier for current staff to complete their Registered Early Childhood Educator designations.
- More support is needed for children with special needs: About one in every nine children in Ontario has special needs. A better investment for special needs support in child care will improve the experience of every child.

## FACT:

YMCAs are currently recruiting for 560 vacancies in order to staff current programs, with 3,200 new hires required to reach our licensed capacity. An estimated 9,000+ new educators will be needed across the sector in order to deliver on Ontario's child care commitments.

**Region:** Ontario <sup>[3]</sup>

**Tags:** Canada-wide agreement <sup>[4]</sup>

child care plan <sup>[5]</sup>

Ontario election 2022 <sup>[6]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 11 May 2022):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/22/05/ontario-election-2022-focus-child-care>  
**Links**

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/22/05/ontario-election-2022-focus-child-care> [2] <https://blog.ymcagta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Child-Care-One-Pager-FINAL-ua.pdf> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7856> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/9206> [5] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/child-care-plan> [6] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/9251>