

Unions are the only answer to a child care sector plagued by financial uncertainty ^[1]

Author: CUPE - SCFP Ontario

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Excerpt

It is challenging to be a child care operator in Doug Ford's Ontario. With no roadmap to solve the workforce crisis and zero financial transparency since the province signed on to the \$10-a-day child care program, operators have been left running deficits. The announcement from one of Toronto's largest child care providers that they plan to slash workers' wages is an operator flailing about for a solution that will only make the problem worse.

The Ford government is months behind schedule on their planned release of the 2025 child care funding formula. Driven by this uncertainty, last week the Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF) – which runs 25 child care centres in Toronto – announced plans to cut \$2 an hour from 200 non-unionized child care workers.

"I believe LEF when they say they're struggling because all child care centres that signed onto the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program in Ontario are operating blind because the Ford government still hasn't implemented a fair funding formula. But the solution can't be to hurt workers, chase them from jobs they love, and disincentivize others from joining the sector," said Carolyn Ferns, Public Policy Coordinator at the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. "We're short thousands of ECEs in this province just as waitlists to access care are ballooning. Cutting wages while food prices skyrocket is a recipe for disaster. Instead, educators, families, child care operators and unions need to come together and push the Ford government to do better."

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