Home > Position paper and policy brief on a publicly-funded ELCC salary scale

Position paper and policy brief on a publicly-funded ELCC salary scale

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Excerpts from the executive summary

Ontario has a child care workforce shortage amid an increased demand for child care spaces. Currently many child care programs are limiting enrolment because they cannot adequately staff.

This workforce crisis is now a major roadblock to the successful implementation of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan in Ontario. It is slowing planned space expansion and blocking access to child care for many families.

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Ontario should immediately implement a province-wide publicly funded salary scale for RECEs and non-RECE staff in early years and child care programs.

- At least \$30-\$40 per hour for RECEs.
- At least \$25 per hour for non-RECE staff.
- There should be annual increases and steps to reward years of service.
- There should be immediate implementation of benefit and pension plans.

A salary scale should be based on five guiding principles:

- 1. Funding the workforce is funding quality.
- 2. Decent compensation for all.
- 3. Recognition of qualifications, experience and responsibilities. Development of job roles.
- 4. Respect for existing decent wages and collective agreements.
- 5. Commitment to a democratic process that meaningfully includes educators.

Related link: Policy brief 2: Ontario child care funding formula [3]

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