**Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care**

**Fall Update**

With the rollout of Full Day Kindergarten in its fifth year and the Childcare Modernization Act Bill 10 expected to pass by the end of the year, Child Care programs continue to face an uncertain future. As well, with newly elected provincial and municipal governments and a federal election ahead, we can expect a very busy year. We will seize every opportunity to fight for an affordable, accessible system.

1. Federal: What are People Saying?
2. Provincial: What is the government doing?
3. Municipal: Upcoming Events, Results of ELCAQI Survey

**1) Federal**

**Child Care is finally on the Federal radar again** - and as there will be a Federal Election in 2015 -This will be THE opportunity we’ve been waiting for to push for a National Child Care Program.

## The NDP announced (Oct 14, 2014) a national child care plan: “ an NDP government would work with the provinces to support or create a million child-care spaces over eight years. NDP proposes $15-a-day national child-care program” <http://www.ndp.ca/childcare>

* **The Liberals** countered (Oct 14, 2014) "Canada had a national child-care plan — a Liberal government negotiated a comprehensive national child-care deal with all of the provinces, . . . In 2005, it was the NDP that joined with Stephen Harper’s Conservatives to topple the Liberal government. One of Mr. Harper's first actions was to cancel the child-care plan."
* **The Conservatives** question cost and tweeted (Oct 14): “Our Government believes that parents know what is best for their children," she tweeted. . . (reminding us that we get $4 child care tax benefit)

We need to use every advocacy opportunity at the Municipal or Provincial level (i.e. City Budget, City Child Care Funding Formula, Provincial Budget) to push also at the Federal level. As well, of course there will be nation-wide advocacy campaign (across Canada) leading up to the Federal election.

**Child Care 2020** *from Vision to Action* - National Conference in Winnipeg - November 13 – 15, 2014 [www.childcare2020.ca](http://www.childcare2020.ca)

**2) Provincial**

Our Provincial Liberal government was elected with a majority in June 2014, allowing them to move fast on a number of things.

* **The Provincial Budget 2014 (2014-2015**) - was passed in July – we do know that means more provincial funding again this year for child care (3 years funding was announced in 2012), and that it means more for Toronto in 2015 (Provincial Child Care Funding & Framework) – we do not know yet how much more – we hope to get this info ahead of City Budget time – and we are asking!
* **The Child Care Modernization Act (Bill 143)** – has passed second reading (October 23) - some good things will come out of this – but it also carries changes that we need to be ready for - School Age care in particular. This Bill should now go back to committee? We may see further consultation? (OCBCC) - especially in light of the Ombudsman’s Report on unliscensed child care. .
* **The Provincial Ombudsman** released a scathing report (October 22) that is important to catch. The Toronto Star reported:

**Ontario ombudsman slams ‘systematic government ineptitude’ for daycare deaths**

Andre Marin issued an unprecedented 113 recommendations, and calls the case of 2-year-old Eva Ravikovich’s death in a ‘brazenly illegal’ daycare, the ‘canary in the coal mine. “Our investigation revealed just how bad it was — and believe me, our title, Careless about Child Care, is putting it mildly,” Marin said in a written statement. “The momentum spurred by these children’s terrible deaths must not be lost”.<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/10/22/ontario_ombudsman_slams_systematic_government_ineptitude_for_daycare_deaths.html>

**3) Municipal**

* **Reminder: We are heading into a very important few months at the City level**

**October** 28 – We elected a **new City Council** – the TCBCC will move to Congratulate all 44 Councillors and the Mayor and get straight to work with our ELCC community to meet with / and encourage their support of child care

**November** – **Children’s Services Parent Consultations** on the New Child Care Funding Formula (recommendations to go to Council in Spring 2015 for implementation 2016 onwards) – We will need parents out and engaged!

**December – January -** **City Budget 2015** – The TCBCC and Child Care Community will depute

**February – March 2015 – A New Child Care Funding Formula** – The TCBCC and Child Care Community will depute (the new formula will come into effect in 2016)

In the upcoming months we will be exploring:

- Provincial / City cost sharing – as Provincial funding increases, has City funding kept up?

- After-School Recreation Care (A.R.C.) – what kind of Provincial or City funding goes into A.R.C. to keep parent fees so low?

**SURVEY ON THE NEW EARLY LEARNING AND CARE ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS (ELCAQI) TOOL**

Over a two month period between June and August 2014 a survey was conducted among 163 community based non-profit Child Care centres in the City of Toronto by the TCBCC. The purpose of the survey was to discover if the new ELCAQI tool is valuable to the child care community.

The survey was conducted by means of an online questionnaire emailed to Supervisors of Child Care centres that are members of the TCBCC.  The first part of the survey dealt with the content and application of the ELCAQI tool. The second section was concerned with relationships between City staff and the Child Care centres. The third section looked at the perception by the general public of the posted scores online.

Out of the 163 programs we surveyed, 90 responses were received; this reflects a response rate of 55%, which is deemed a good response.

[ELCAQI Survey Results](TCBCC%20-%20ELCAQI%20Survey%20Results%20%20August%202014.pptx)