

**Toronto Coalition for Better Childcare**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CO-CHAIR'S REPORT**  
**November 8, 2017**

The Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care is a strong *Voice for Child Care* in Toronto, and has been leading the struggle for the community at the City level for almost 30 years. Our members and board members were actively engaged in advocacy at the city and provincial levels and this past year our voices were heard.

The City of Toronto, Children's Services has always made decisions that directly impact parent fees, access to subsidies, staff salaries and grants as well as administering the annual AQI inspections. These greatly impact centres across the City. . . . and so, we monitor, speak up, and work proactively to direct policy and funding decisions at the City of Toronto. Hi quality and accessible childcare is so important and Coalition members have continued to be proactive in supporting front line staff, operators as well as children and families.

At the same time, what happens at the Provincial level continues to greatly impact child care in Toronto. Changes to the CCEYA required all of us to drastically revamp and rewrite our policies. The TCBCCC was hugely supportive of the community by being a conduit of policy sharing. Working closely with our members, the coalition developed and disseminated nearly 30 policies, including the Program Statement. These policies not only supported the childcare community, but they added much needed revenue to the TCBCCC, allowing Jane and Coalition members to be able to continue supporting initiatives in the community. Policies have become a win/ win for the TCBCCC and our community members.

Members of the Coalition also managed to successfully bring to the fore issues of bureaucratic duplication of services. We have been ineffective in the past in our advocacy work around how AQI is administered. We finally made some inroads and the City is now reviewing AQI for duplication. We have begun to see some positive changes. For example, the Nutrition section of AQI will cease starting in January since the City finally acknowledged that Public Health & Provincial regulations adequately ensure quality. We are hopeful that this is the first of many changes the city can do to introduce some flexibility into the AQI inspections.

**Our community has advocated together very successfully over the years. Here are some of our activities and accomplishments during 2017:**

- **We continue to lead the child care community in the City Budget process each year.** The 2017 Budget was an important opportunity to not only maintain but to grow child care services. The Childcare community worked tirelessly to fight Children's Service's plan to cut Rent subsidies. We won the fight in 2017 and have been assured rent

subsidies won't be cut in 2018. This was a hug win!

- **We work closely with the OCBC every year to keep the pressure on the Province to fund our child care system properly.**
- The TCBC has broadened our fundraising by volunteering regularly at Dolphin Gaming. Proceeds from BINGO will help support some of our initiatives, including the exciting Community Build Program that we are rolling out today. More on this later.
- **The TCBC has always participated as a strong voice for the child care community** on all relevant Committees at City Hall, the School Boards and within the broader community. The TCBC staff and Board Members have collaborated and provided leadership at the following Committees this year:
  - ◆ District Child Care Advisory Tables – North, South, East and West
  - ◆ Early Learning and Care Committee
  - ◆ Aboriginal Advisory Committee
  - ◆ The TDSB Early Years Advisory Committee
  - ◆ The Middle Childhood Working Group
  - ◆ The Middle Childhood Coalition
  - ◆ The Operators Network
  - ◆ The Good Jobs for All Coalition
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**At this time, I'd like to thank our funders over the past year:**

- City of Toronto: through the Community Service Program
- The Union locals that have donated to our Child Care Solidarity Fund
- Members who support the Coalition through annual memberships.
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**Finally, I want to send a HUGE Thank you** to our Executive Co-ordinator Jane Mercer. She continues to work tirelessly for the childcare community. And thank you to all of our Board Members and to the many strong members in the child care community, who will continue to rally us in this struggle through these extraordinary times.