

Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care
Annual General Meeting – Co Chair’s Report
November 15, 2018

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 more than 30 years. Our members and board members were actively engaged in advocacy at the City and Provincial levels and this past year our voices have been 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 administrating the AQI inspections. These greatly impact centres across the City....and so we monitor, speak up and work proactively with the community to inform policy and funding decisions at the City level. Accessible, affordable high-quality child care is foremost and Toronto Coalition members continue to proactively support direct service staff, operators, children and families.

The TCBC is a consistent and firm voice for more child care subsidies, increased GOF funding, reduced parent fees, improvements to staff salaries and benefits and paying programs their actual costs. All of which can be achieved through proper funding.

Through strength and determination the child care community persuaded the TCDSB to retroactively refund permit fees to child care programs located in Catholic schools. At the TDSB the child care community continues to make inroads with shared space ensuring that the school board understands and works with child care programs in school.

Through the Per Diem Survey in 2018 we were able to provide evidence to City Councillors that child care programs were not receiving their true costs in all age groups and this was driving up child care fees and imposing deficits on programs across the City. Child Care Supervisors were able to share this report with their boards to show that City per diems were impacting the system widely.

Through board and community deputation to City Committees and Budget we impressed the importance of actual costs and its impact on quality and service delivery.

- Through our combined efforts our participation in the Auditor General's Survey resulted in 22 recommendations for the improvement of the Toronto Children's Services department.
- Through AQI workshops for the child care community, programs were provided with templates and resources to support their child care in obtaining a higher score and managing their AQI visit. This reduced staff stress and helped Supervisors manage this unannounced visit by an AQI assessor.
- With the development of the workshop series on How Does Learning Happen member centres are receiving in house training for their staff teams within their programs therefore learning together. These workshops have provided an additional funding stream for the TCBC.
- In addition, changes at the Provincial level continue to impact our child care programs in the City of Toronto. Continual changes and updates to the CCEYA, 2014 have financial and policy implications in our programs. The TCBC continues to provide sample policies and job descriptions for the child care community to meet CCEYA and Employment legislation requirements.
- We continue to work closely with the OCBC to keep pressure on the Province to fund our child care system properly.

The TCBC continues to grow the Community Build Program; this program provides resources and a toy grant to members who join the program. The toy/equipment grants are funded by the TCBC through our fundraising efforts by volunteering at Dolphin Bingo.

The TCBC has participated as a strong voice for the child care community at 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:

- The Child Care Forums
- The AQI committee

- The Ministers Early Year's Advisory Committee
- Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- The TDSB Early Years Advisory Committee
- The TCDSB Steering Committee
- The Middle Childhood Coalition
- The Operators Network
- The Good Jobs for All Coalition
- The Toronto Child and Family Network- Table 3
- Commitment to Community

Some future projects:

- A TCBCB strategic plan
- A user friendly website
- Developing our Community Build Program
- Developing further workshops for the child care community
- Name change (motion)
- Always speaking out on the issues that affect you

At this time, I would like to thank our funders for their continued support this year.

- The City of Toronto: through the Community Service Program and the Lottery Licensing Division
- The Union locals that have donated to our Child Care Solidarity Fund
- Members who support the Coalition through annual memberships and the Community Build Fund

Finally, I want to express our sincere appreciation to our Executive Co-ordinator Jane Mercer. She continues to be a strong voice for the childcare community. A big thank you to our Board of Directors who give their time and expertise to support the TCBCB. It is all of us collectively in the child care community who share, support, encourage and lead the way for an accessible, affordable, quality child care system for all.