

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

IF ELECTED, WHAT WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT DO TO DEVELOP AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH THAT MEETS ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM – AFFORDABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY?

- In the Spring of 2019, a general petition was circulated urging the Provincial Government to increase funding for licensed not for profit child care programs in recognition of the importance of early learning & child care in Manitoba. The response to the petition was overwhelming. Over 26,000 Manitobans signed the petition. However, there has been no comprehensive provincial strategy to date.

IF YOUR PARTY IS ELECTED, HOW MANY ADDITIONAL SPACES WILL BE LICENSED AND FUNDED FOR EACH CHILD CARE CENTRES AND HOME-BASED PROGRAMS? WILL YOUR PARTY COMMIT TO FUNDING THE EXISTING 2691 UNFUNDED SPACES?

- Access to licensed child care spaces is a problem throughout the province and must be improved. As of June 2018, there were 16,605 total unique children province wide on the online child care registry.

WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT COMMIT TO A) IMPLEMENTING A WORKFORCE STRATEGY THAT SUPPORTS CURRENT INITIATIVES AND B) ENSURING ECEs ARE COMPENSATED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS AT A LEVEL THAT REFLECTS THEIR EDUCATION AND YEARS OF SERVICE?

- Quality child care is dependent on a workforce that is skilled and adequately remunerated. The workforce shortage of trained Early Childhood Educators has increased significantly. There are a number of current initiatives to address some of the recruitment and retention challenges including: staff replacement grants, registered pension plan and retirement supports, increased funding to ECE training capacity and annual training grants. And still, there is a substantial shortage.

WHAT WILL YOUR PARTY DO TO ENSURE CHILD CARE FEES REMAIN AFFORDABLE TO ALL MANITOBA FAMILIES?

- Manitoba continues to have the 2nd lowest child care fees in Canada. However, less families are eligible for subsidized care. Only 20% of all children in care qualify for subsidy.

