

Questions for Candidates about Early Learning & Child Care (ELCC)

Quality

If elected, will your party commit to funding MCCA's Market Competitive Salary Guideline Scale and a benefit package for all certified ECEs?

What is your plan for developing a comprehensive workforce strategy to address the current shrinking ECE workforce?

- There is an estimated shortfall of 1,000 ECEs in relation to the current number of spaces
- Nearly 35% of Manitoba child care facilities have an exemption on their operating license due to the failure to meet provincial requirements for certified staff
- The implementation of a fully funded provincial salary scale and benefit package is critical to adequately support the sector and address working conditions

Affordability/Funding

What is your plan to ensure high quality early learning and child care services are affordable to all families in Manitoba?

What is your plan to ensure that families of School-age children (7-12 years) will pay a maximum of \$10/day year long?

What is your plan to ensure licensed not for profit facilities receive annual and adequate operating grants to make up for the frozen funding over the years?

- \$10/day is most affordable for middle-high-income families
- The existing subsidy system is punitive to low income earners
- Licensed not-for-profit child care facilities have been underfunded for years; recent operating grants to support only the wage grid are inadequate, inconsistent and do not support sustainability

Accessibility

What is your expansion plan to ensure the growth of high-quality child care for all Manitoba families throughout the province?

What is your plan to support existing facilities ability to expand through planning grants, adequate funding and necessary resources?

- Under its Action Plan, Manitoba has committed to a target of 23,000 new regulated spaces by 2026; this represents a 57% increase to the current system
- Child care waitlists are exploding; more families are looking for child care than in the current system
- 76% of pre-school aged children in Manitoba live in child care deserts