



September 6, 2023

Jodie Kehl, Executive Director
Manitoba Child Care Association
2350 McPhillips St.
Winnipeg, MB, R2V 4J6

Dear Ms Kehl,

Thank you for engaging in this critical election. We appreciate all the work the Manitoba Child Care Association and your members do to advocate for quality, affordable, and accessible child care across the province, and for early childhood educators.

QUALITY

We know that creating more child care spaces and addressing the waitlist will be impossible unless the government implements a workforce strategy to tackle the shortage of early childhood educators (ECEs). An NDP government led by Wab Kinew will work with the childcare sector and organizations like the MCCA to ensure fair compensation levels for ECEs, to attract and retain talented and passionate people to the field. Early childhood educators deserve good jobs that pay the bills, including benefits and opportunities for additional training and professional development.

AFFORDABILITY/FUNDING

An NDP government will invest in childcare across the province, creating more spaces in schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces so every family can access the care they need through the \$10/day program. We have also committed to expand the \$10/day program to include the summer months for school-age children, as well as making child care hours more flexible and available to parents who are shift workers.

In addition to creating new spaces, it is essential that we support existing centres in their day-to-day work. For years, Heather Stefanson and the PCs starved the sector of the funding it needs to thrive. The Manitoba NDP will work with the sector to ensure child care centres can rely on stable and predictable funding so they can offer families the care they need, when they need it.

ACCESSIBILITY

We want to be sure that child care is available across all Manitoba. We also want to make child care more accessible, including for children with exceptional needs. We will invest in inclusive childcare, as well as additional ECEs, to create more than 23,000 spaces across the province. Together, we can eliminate the current wait list and meet the needs of all families, not only today, but as our province grows.

Sincerely,

The Manitoba NDP