

# Canada Votes 2008!

## What is the Child Care Strategy for Canada?



### What's Happening Now?

The present Government of Canada says it spends \$5.6B annually on early learning and child care.

But, of that – only about 10% is actually dedicated to the early learning and child care spaces Canadian parents desperately need.

Most goes directly to parents for the Universal Child Care Benefit, or for tax support for families such as the child care expense deduction, or for the child tax credit.

*In Canada today, there are not enough child-care spaces – particularly the regulated spaces shown by research to be of higher quality....only about 15% of Canadian children who need child care can find licensed spaces. (Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre, May 31, 2006)*

Mothers are in the workforce - over 60% will return to work by the time their child is three - and there are plenty of economic, social, and political reasons to support their participation. There is also ample brain research indicating we should be very concerned about the non-parental care their children receive. Now we have to wait for governments to catch up

- Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain  
Co-Author Early Years Study.

A good child care strategy for Canada will reflect recommendations from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Thematic Review of Canadian Early Childhood Education and Care, such as:

- ✓ the creation of a transparent and accountable funding system, and for parents, a fairer share of ECEC funding: federal & provincial governments each 40% and parents 20%
- ✓ a universal early childhood service for children from 1-6 years, delivered equitably by mixed providers, governed by public mandated agencies
- ✓ a national quality framework, and the infrastructure at provincial level to ensure effective implementation

(see the full recommendations at [www.childcarecanada.org](http://www.childcarecanada.org))

### A Question For Candidates.....

HOW MUCH FUNDING WILL YOUR PARTY PROVIDE TO THE PROVINCES/ TERRITORIES SPECIFICALLY TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF REGULATED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SERVICES?



(A message from the Manitoba Child Care Association)

CANADA NEEDS A STRATEGY TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE ACCESSIBLE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SERVICES !