



Alejandra Bravo

CITY COUNCILLOR | **CHAIR, ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
WARD 9 • DAVENPORT

June 18, 2024

RE: Chair's Report - Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Roundtable

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

Maintaining and growing our child care system in Toronto is a key priority, as outlined in our Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy. Since the introduction of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, Toronto Children's Services has been working with operators to implement the program despite the challenges created by the program's guidelines.

During the implementation of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the childcare sector has faced a number of challenges. Operators have faced uncertainty on both operating and capital funding, while disparities in workers' wages have caused recruitment and retention challenges. Sector expansion is stalled due to inadequate investment, and a lack of clarity on the provincial funding formula has made it hard to plan for the future. It is clear that much more work is needed in order for our child care system to be accessible and inclusive for everyone.

The City of Toronto's Economy and Community Development Committee called for a roundtable of Toronto's child care sector to be convened to discuss these challenges, identify opportunities, and talk about how we can move forward together to build the best possible future for child care in Toronto. In this report, you'll see the key themes identified through the roundtable's discussions and the collective wisdom of those who are on the frontlines.

Affordable and accessible child care helps us build a more fair city and grows our economy. The Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement also needs to be implemented in a way that is fair, sustainable, and promotes growth. This isn't feasible without additional support from the provincial and federal governments.

I extend my sincere thanks to all those who joined us for the roundtable, and to everyone else who has reached out in the past few months to speak up for child care in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Economic and Community Development Committee receive this item for information.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Bravo
Chair, Economic & Community Development Committee
City Councillor, Ward 9 (Davenport)

Attachment 1 – Chair's Report - Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Roundtable