



October 22, 2024

Councillor Bravo & Members of ECDC:

**Re: Economic and Community Development Committee Item ECD16.2 –  
Sidewalks to Skylines: An Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2025-2035)**

Dear Committee Members:

In reviewing the 73 recommendations, I kept wondering what number child care would be, only to discover that this Action Plan has failed to include child care in any of the recommendations.

Surely this was a mistake.

If not a mistake, what is the City's rationale for a vision that does not include targets for sustaining and growing the child care system in Toronto? We know full well that the current provincial government is keen to dismantle the entire sector and turn it over to big box for-profit centres. We have long counted on the City of Toronto to be a leader in not only supporting child care, but in establishing and promoting quality targets that are unmatched in Canada. High quality, non-profit & public child care must continue to be a priority in Toronto.

The question remains: how could this omission have occurred, given the undisputed fact that our economy and our workforce both rely on child care. Parents cannot work without child care. Mothers, especially, cannot work without reliable child care. And children benefit from early childhood education, well before they enter school.

Over the next 10 years, the City of Toronto needs to be a child care leader. Child care directors like me need the City to do more, not less, to advocate against the intergovernmental pressures in order to support the sector.

**I urge you to include child care in this Action Plan. Child care is an essential part of the infrastructure for the economic and social well-being of Toronto.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Amy O'Neil*

Amy O'Neil, Executive Director, Treetop Children's Centre