

From: [Donna Spreitzer](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Cc: [Donna Spreitzer](#)
Subject: [External Sender] ECDC Item 2025.EC24.1 Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Expansion - Update
Date: October 27, 2025 6:23:03 PM

Dear City Clerk:

Please include my comments in the ECDC meeting package. Thank you.

ECDC Item 2025.EC24.1 Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Expansion - Update

The Toronto Community for Better Child Care (TCBCC) and its members wish to thank Sherry Kamali, Director, Service System Planning & Policy Development as well as TCS General Manager, Shanley McNamee for the October 10, 2025 Update on CWELCC.

TCBCC fully supports recommendation #1. The federal and provincial governments MUST provide additional and sustained capital and operating funding. Without this funding, the dream of creating a universal, (mostly) publicly funded child care system will not be achievable.

TCBCC further supports TCS's plan to convene a roundtable with operators, advocates and other sector partners to discuss (among other topics) challenges and opportunities to support child care access for families relying on fee subsidies. I attended the first roundtable 2 years ago and would recommend that sector-wide roundtables be convened annually.

With the recent provincial Auditor General's report noting the dismal expansion efforts achieved in the province, I would have hoped that this report would include bolder recommendations to better support access and growth in Toronto. Thousands of children on the subsidy waiting list cannot access child care; at the same time too many licensed child care spaces sit empty. I call on TCS to work with operators so that licensed child care spaces are occupied. This is the low hanging fruit! Yes, we need MORE child care spaces created, but we also must ensure that every opportunity is made to fill existing spaces. One way would be to encourage centres to change their Wait List Policy to prioritize children on the subsidy wait list. Most centres still maintain First Come First Serve policies. While this policy seems fair and reasonable, it is inflexible and exacerbates inequality. Newcomers to Toronto and families in transition end up remaining on waiting lists for years, never getting a child care spot. When women can't work, they cannot contribute to the economy. AQL could be amended to encourage centres to amend their policy to prioritize children on the subsidy waiting list. This would certainly increase access and inclusion in the system.

If CWELCC is to be successful, the City of Toronto needs to take workforce concerns very seriously. The AG's report noted a shortage of ECEs in the thousands. I am regularly in contact with operators that are struggling to fill staffing vacancies. The provincial ECE and supervisor wage floors are ridiculously low and do not represent a decent wage in Toronto. The child care community would welcome a wage grid for all child care workers (ECEs, Non-ECEs, Supervisors, Executive Directors, Cooks, etc.) that would better align with Children's Services wage grids. This would attract educators to the field and help operators retain their valuable staff. Without educators there is no child care.

The upcoming stakeholder round table will surely result in many new and innovative

ideas to support families & educators and build the sector. I look forward to seeing a bolder vision in the future.

Sincerely,

Donna

Donna Spreitzer, ECE, BA, MA

(pronouns: she/her) ([why pronouns?](#))

Executive Director

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(Please note I work a 4-day week)