



# Child Care in Ontario Faces Catastrophic Collapse

**Background:** In 2006, the McGuinty government took a one-time federal payment, for child care and spread it over four years. Each year since \$63.5 million went to support our vital child care services.

This year the money runs out!

## **The McGuinty Government has had four years to plan for 2010 “Premier McGuinty – What is the Plan?”**

It is a **Provincial responsibility** to fund child care. Municipalities receive the money from the Province to administer child care services.

If the Province does not replace the \$63.5 million dollars in this year’s provincial budget, Municipalities across Ontario will have no option but to make **dramatic cuts to child care subsidies**.

**The ripple effect of those cuts will lead to a catastrophic collapse for our fragile child care system.**

### **Impact on Families:**

- Thousands of low and middle income families will lose access to safe, quality care for their children.
- Parents may have to leave their jobs or postpone going back to school.

(Cities like Toronto have 16,000 children on its waiting for subsidized child care. Despite the heavy demand city officials say they will be forced to **cut 5000 child care subsidies** – 20% of all its child care subsidies. The situation is similar in other Ontario regions.)

**Impact on Child Care Centres:** Whether you are looking for child care; are a full-fee paying parent or have a subsidy, everyone will be affected. Child care centres will need to deal with empty spaces and declining revenue.

- They will be forced to layoff staff and increase parent fees
- Many centres will close, and ALL will become extremely vulnerable

**Impact on Communities:** Early learning and child care provides a vital support for children, families and the workforce across Ontario. Every community needs affordable, accessible, high quality child care for its young families.

- We already do not have nearly enough child care in Ontario.

- Families need child care for children of all ages.
- Families have been struggling in Ontario for decades with inadequate access to this vital service . . .

**We can't afford to lose a single space.**

**Impact on the Government's Plan for Full-Day Learning:** The Provincial Government has announced full-day learning for 4 and 5 year olds, starting this September. A collapsing child care system will be a disaster for full-day learning. Parents will lose child care options for younger children, child care centres will be financially vulnerable or close – all at the same time you build a new program?

**If you are getting that déjà vu feeling, you are right! . . . Ontario faced the same decision at this time last year and provided \$18 million in “bridge funding” to extend funding until June 2010.**

**So . . . we repeat the question:**

**“Premier McGuinty – What is the Plan?”**

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In the 2010 budget, we call on Premier McGuinty and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan to:

1. Ensure the province provides sufficient funding to maintain existing levels of child care service; and recognize cost of living and other legitimate increases in operating costs;
2. Provide all necessary tools to support the transition to an Early Learning Program for four and five year olds and ensure the child care system remains stable and sustainable.

**What you Can Do!**

1. Circulate a petition to the Ontario Legislature. Take this to your child care centre, your workplace, ask your families and friends to support maintaining funding for child care. Go to [www.childcareontario.org](http://www.childcareontario.org)
2. Send an email message to your local MPP, as well as Finance Minister Dwight Duncan and Premier McGuinty. Go to [www.childcareontario.org/ontariobudget](http://www.childcareontario.org/ontariobudget)
3. Sound the alarm. Send a letter to your local newspaper. You can use a sample letter available at [www.childcareontario.org](http://www.childcareontario.org)

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care is Ontario's advocacy group for high quality, affordable, non-profit child care.

For more information on our campaign to stop the cuts to child care subsidies in 2010 check our website at [www.childcareontario.org](http://www.childcareontario.org) or email [andrea@childcareontario.org](mailto:andrea@childcareontario.org)