

# Parents and Staff!

## Child Care in Ontario Faces Catastrophic Collapse And we need YOUR strong voices

**Background:** In 2006, the McGuinty government took a one-time federal payment, spread it over four years and included that funding in **Ontario's core child care budget**. But NOW the money is all used up! 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.** If the Province does not replace these dollars in his 2010 provincial budget, Municipalities across Ontario will have no option but to make **dramatic cuts to child care subsidies. Toronto (where 16,000 children are already waiting for a subsidized space) will have to cut 5000 child care subsidies (20%) by 2012.**

The ripple effect of such drastic cuts will lead to a **catastrophic collapse** of our fragile system. Whether parents are full fee paying or already have a subsidy, everyone will be affected.

#### **Impact on Families:**

- Thousands of low and middle income families will lose access to child care
- Those parents may have to leave their jobs or postpone going back to school.
- Families may be forced to choose inadequate or unsafe options for their children.

#### **Impact on Child Care Centres:**

- Child care centres will have empty child care spaces
- They will be forced to layoff staff and increase parent fees
- Many centres will close within a matter of months, and ALL will become unstable!

Every community needs affordable, accessible, high quality child care for children of all ages and we already do not have nearly enough child care in Ontario.

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

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 – all at the same time you build a new program?

#### **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, 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)

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