

# Stephen Harper – He’s out of touch with modern families. MAKE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE AN ELECTION ISSUE!

## THE ISSUE

Over 50,000 children in Ontario are waiting for child care, including 15,000 in Toronto and a similar number in Ottawa. Their parents can’t access good quality child care because they either can’t afford it or find it. That’s shameful given that 73% of women with young children work outside the home.

Stephen Harper and his Conservatives say they are funding child care, but the reality is that their so-called Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) is simply a small income support for parents of \$60 per month after taxes. It’s not building desperately needed child care services. In fact, growth in child care spaces has slowed since the UCCB was introduced.

### When it comes to Early Childhood Education and Care, Canada is failing badly. Our country:

- Does not have an early learning and child care system
- Is the lowest spender on such programs of any OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) country
- Ranks at the bottom of international assessments of quality education and care
- Has one of the lowest rates of access to quality child care.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Stephen Harper's record on child care and early childhood education is dismal. In this election, make child care a key campaign issue with all political parties.

### 1. Attend All-Candidates’ Meetings

Find out when all-candidates’ meetings are being held in your community. Take supporters to cheer you on. Publicly raise the issues and the questions in this flyer at the meeting.

### 2. Talk to your candidates

When election candidates come to your door, ask them the questions in this flyer.

### 3. Work for supportive candidates

Volunteer your time to help pro-child care candidates get elected. That’s the best way to ensure the federal government will begin to meet the needs of parents and children in Ontario and other provinces.

The NDP is the only party willing to put forward a plan that will immediately create 150,000 child care spaces within one year.

For more information, go to the  
CUPE Ontario website at  
[www.cupe.on.ca](http://www.cupe.on.ca)  
and Code Blue for Child Care at  
[www.buildchildcare.ca](http://www.buildchildcare.ca)

## QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

1. Do you support the building of a publicly funded, high quality child care system in Canada and Ontario?
2. If elected, will you press the government to work with the provinces and territories to fund and develop high quality, not-for-profit child care that is accessible and affordable to families who need it?
3. If elected, will you demand that the government commit to working with the provinces and territories to:

Build a universal, community-based, high quality early childhood education and care system, backed by federal funds growing to 1% of GDP, as well as comprehensive policy and national legislation?

