



Sample MPP Lobby Letter

Your address / Date

Dear MPP

As a child care supporter and voter, I am concerned about the future of child care in this province. Thousands of child care subsidies, and the stability of our entire child care system is at risk if the Ontario Government does not include funding for child care in its March budget. Cuts to child care subsidies could begin as soon as this July.

Child care is a labour intensive sector, and a job generator. A recent study by the Child Care Resources Sector Council found that that investing in child care provides the greatest economic benefit of all sectors of the Canadian economy. Every dollar invested in child care increases the economy's output by (GDP) by \$2.30. This is one of the highest GDP impacts of all major sectors.

We need you to act now and ensure that the Ontario government invests the funds needed to stabilize child care programs across the province. I look forward to hearing from you about what steps you are taking to make this happen.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

c.c. CUPE Ontario - info@cupe.on.ca

Lobbying My MPP

How Do I Lobby My MPP?

The best way to lobby your MPP is in writing. MPP's assume that if you are willing to hand write a letter and send it to them, that you will get out and vote on election day. *Form letters and even petitions don't have the same impact.* See our sample MPP letter for ideas on what to say. Remember to include your name and address, and make it clear that you expect a response from your MPP. If you don't know the name of your MPP, you can call Service Ontario at 1-800-267-8097 to find out. To look up MPPs go to www.electionsontario.on.ca and simply enter the home address in their Find Your Electoral District search engine.

Please copy your letter to CUPE Ontario at info@cupe.on.ca or fax it to 416-299-3480. We are holding public meetings across the province and we want to ensure we can invite child care supporters like you.

Your lobby efforts can be even more effective if you hold a quick letter writing action at your next local meeting or staff meeting. All you need is our child care fact sheet, this flyer and a sample MPP letter, along with some blank paper and pens. When it's your turn on the agenda, explain why writing these letters is so important, and ask people to write a *one paragraph* letter to their MPP. They can put their name and address at the top of the letter, and you can collect the letters. After the meeting, you can look up their MPP and mail the letter for them – this ensures the letter actually gets in the mail and gives you the opportunity to send a copy to CUPE Ontario.

What Can My MPP Do To Support Child Care?

Your MPP can contact your local government and find out what is happening to child care services and the report back to their caucus in the Legislature. The caucus can make child care a key issue by asking questions in the Legislature, tabling petitions, and pushing the government to take action.

Your MPP can meet with local child care advocates and work with them to organize a local community meeting on child care. Your MPP can talk to local press or write an opinion piece in the local newspaper. Many MPPs have a spot on local cable stations and they can invite a local child care advocate to talk about the importance of not for profit and public child care.