

On March 8th 2017, International Women's Day, representatives of the CCCM met with Scott Fielding, Minister of Families, to make recommendations for the new government's much anticipated childcare plan. You can read our 'one-pager' here.



### Child Care Council of Manitoba Recommendations to Minister of Families

Manitoba's childcare policy architecture is a complex balance of goals: (a) provide a rich learning experience for children while at the same time promote parent access and fee affordability; (b) support volunteer-led not-for-profit services, and (c) ensure that the government must consider this complex balance, in which each goal has negative effects on other policy goals. Increasing the number of spaces, (b) improving recruitment and retention of trained early childhood workers is important. Each of these three goals is essential.

In recognition that the government must make a choice, Manitoba recommends the following actions:

- (a) Overhaul the subsidy system while recognizing the caveat is that subsidies should be paid on a fee-for-service structure, and should remain to ensure that the government is not subsidizing the private sector.
- (b) Allocate promised capital dollars to ensure that investments will leverage impressive results: more spaces: when the province provides the same or much more. Expansion of new secondary campuses, where childcare workers are employed and where Early Childhood Education is a career.
- (c) Retain the current policy and funding structure in light of evidence that demonstrates that in other homes, no expansion under the current policy.
- (d) Implement a provincial Early Childhood Strategy to address the critical issues of retention and recruitment. Manitoba's centres are unable to meet the needs of staff, due to uncompetitive salaries. The government should consider costs for centres facing significantly higher costs.
- (e) Manitoba should place considerable emphasis on funds for regulated early learning and care to sign the bilateral agreements (in 2017) with the government as well.

