



CHILD CARE

Facts

In New Brunswick, according to data produced by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, as of July 2013, only 23% of children aged 0 to 12 have access to a regulated child care space. The vast majority (73%) of services are centred the province's three largest cities, meaning that the lack of services is even more pronounced in other areas of the province.

Nearly three-quarters of daycares (71%) are privately owned, for-profit ventures, the remaining 29% being operated by non-profit organizations. The average daily cost to parents is \$31.50 for infants, \$27.02 for pre-school children, and \$15.02 for school-aged children, putting an extra financial burden on New Brunswick families.

Quebec's universal \$7 a day child care program more than pays for itself, according to a study by one Quebec's top economists: for every dollar that the government of Quebec spends on child care programs, \$1.05 is returned in the form of higher tax revenues and lower spending for the provincial government on other program, with an additional 44 cent benefit returned to the federal government.

These immediate economic benefits are in addition to the longer-term benefits from improved educational, health and social benefits for children who attend early learning and child care programs.

Our position

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour has been lobbying for a publicly funded, universally available, high quality child care system. New Brunswick workers and their families deserve no less.

It is time to look to the future, as we have done in the past with kindergartens, transforming them from private and community systems to a public system entirely managed and funded by government.

During the next provincial election, ask the candidates:

- Do you believe in investing in early learning and child care programs to improve the educational, health and social benefits of children?
- Do you believe that when people go to work, they need to feel confident that their children have access to high quality and affordable child care services?
- Do you believe in a universal public child care system for New Brunswick?