

UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE FACT SHEET

By: Devina Martinez

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE,
WHAT IS THE HISTORY,
WHO IS INVOLVED,
WHY IS THIS
IMPORTANT, WHAT IS
THE RESOLUTION?**

What is the issue?

Universal Childcare is not yet a reality in Canada. Universal Canada is a federal program that would make childcare more affordable, accessible to families, and also ensure quality programs are being offered.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

There are many people involved in the universal health care debate, and many people that it affects.

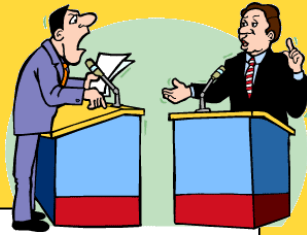
Governments (provincial and federal), families with and without children, early childhood educators, and the general public are all affected by the debate of universal childcare, and many will be affected by the decisions made as well.



General History of Universal Childcare in Canada

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- 1970** Royal Commission on the Status identified care are of children as a responsibility to be shared society.
- 1986** 1986- Federal task force on Child Care.report recommended a universal system of affordable childcare
- Task force's report was shelved by Brian Mulroney's government
- 1996** Quebec introduces low-fee universal childcare
- 2003** Paul Martin \$1 billion of federal spending together with provincial/territorial action plans.
- 2006** Stopped in 2006 by Conservatives
- 2017** Liberals committed to transferring amounts of money to provinces and territories to support corresponding the targeted provincial-territorial advances in childcare.
- 2018** "gender equality budget"
- NOW** Multiple generations who have dealt with the promises and dismissals of universal childcare

WHAT ARE THE OPPOSING SIDES?



There are two opposing sides: those for universal childcare, and those against it.

Against argues there is too much public money being spent, along with negative affects Quebec has with their universal childcare system.

Those for universal health care believe that universal childcare is essential. Article 24 and 18 in the Convention on the rights of the child (United Nations Human Rights) are commonly used in this argument, along with the facts that are discussed in the "Why is this an issue?" section below

WHAT IS THE BEST RESOLUTION IN OUR OPINION? WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN ORDER FOR THIS RESOLUTION TO OCCUR?

1. Make childcare affordable
2. Provincial Wage Scale
3. Childcare expansion for public and not-for-profit programs

WHY NOT PROVINCIAL?

National system is preferred to provincial. Federal government can play a role in economic development, closing wage gaps and reducing poverty. They have an opportunity to introduce national funding standards

WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?

Universal childcare is needed because of the lack of accessibility and affordability that childcare centres have. These issues also have an affect on women in the workplace and professional pay of early childhood educators.

Society benefits through the investments in early childhood. Some results are greater economic productivity, crime rates decrease, reduced health care spending.

These benefits outweigh the ones that are connected to the ones that come from social support investments



Affordability: Subsidy programs based on income, waitlists
Median monthly fees: \$1320 infants, \$1080 toddlers, \$940 preschoolers

Accessibility: families go on waitlists before their child is born,
Lack of space for children under 18, there is space for only 3 out of 10 children under 5

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