



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services and Lori Clark, Children's Programs Supervisor
Date:	June 27, 2018
Re:	Child Care Quality Assurance – Issue Report

Background

High quality Child Care programs provide enriching early learning experiences that promote future well-being. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is committed to quality programs for all children. High quality programs respect diversity, equity, and inclusion and should value the language and cultural needs of our communities. Child Care programs should be inclusive of and accessible to children with a range of abilities.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB provides funding and program support to 9 agencies who deliver 17 Child Care programs and 4 EarlyON centres, with extensive outreach, throughout the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB jurisdiction.

In March the [Child Care Quality Assurance Issue Report](#) was shared with the Board along with the 2018 Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board [Child Care Quality Assurance Report](#) which contains several recommendations that will benefit programs across the district.

Programs need to be supported in their efforts to be responsive to child and family interests and needs to support development, health and well-being. Increased partnerships between the Quality Assurance Program and Special Needs Resource program are needed to support an inclusive and responsive environment for all children.

Current Environment

The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party has spoken against the Liberal and NDP plans for “government daycare” and their platform calls for a tax credit up to 75% (to a maximum of \$6,750) based on a sliding scale for income.

They have not mentioned any promises to create additional spaces or continue with the 100,000 licensed child care spaces promised by the previous government.

Given the absence of further detail in the PC Party's platform, the incoming government's direction in terms of children services is largely unclear.

Conclusion

Staff consulted with other service system managers to determine best practices and review existing quality assurance programs. Since the consultation a new government was formed, and it is unknown at this time if child care will be impacted. Quality Assurance is currently being contracted to Our Children Our Future and will remain status quo until we receive our funding allocation.