

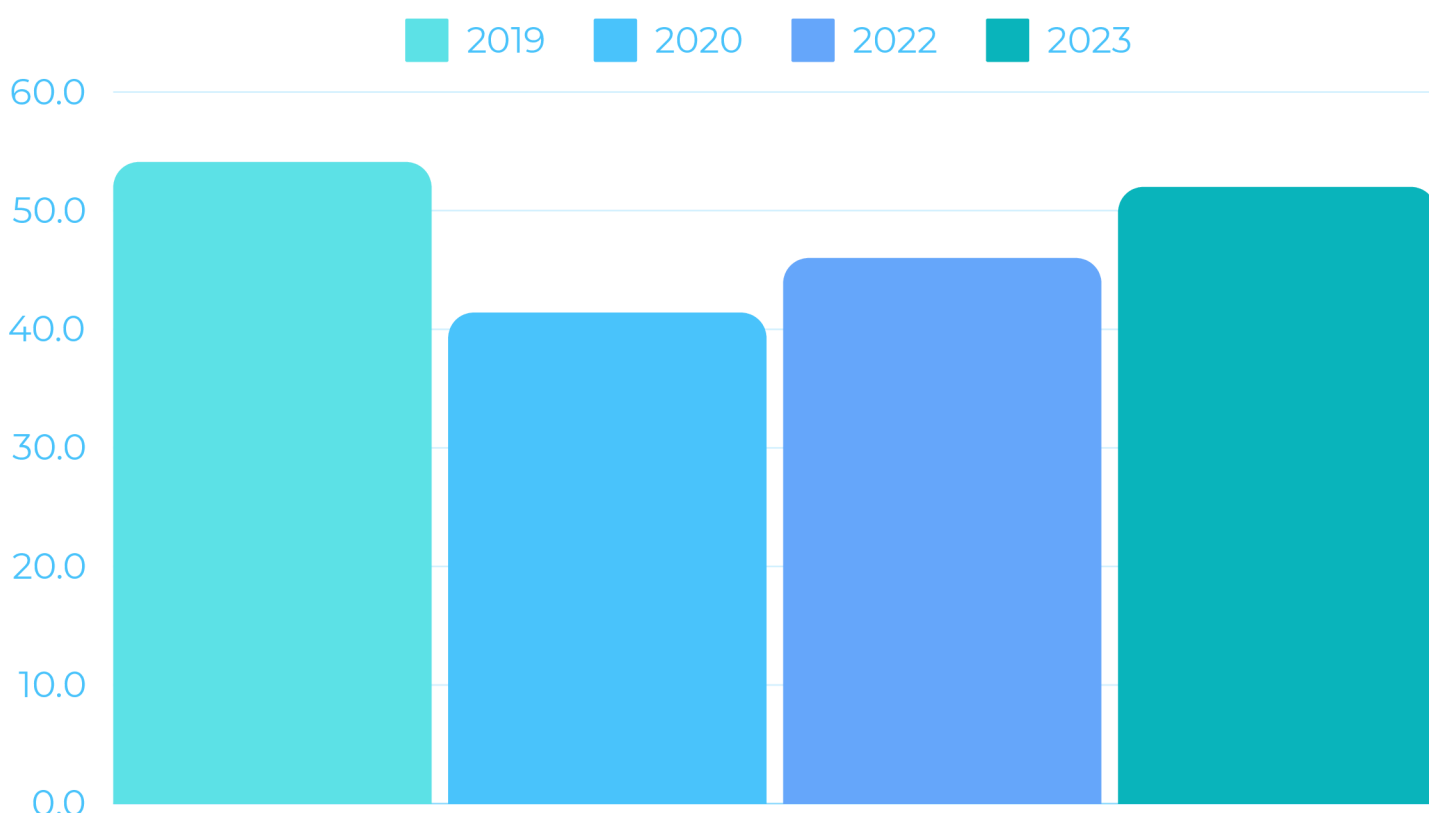
Elevating early learning and child care in Alberta: A collective responsibility

The Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement has been a catalyst for change in Alberta. However, there is still much work to be done to achieve a robust system that meets the needs of children, families and dedicated educators.

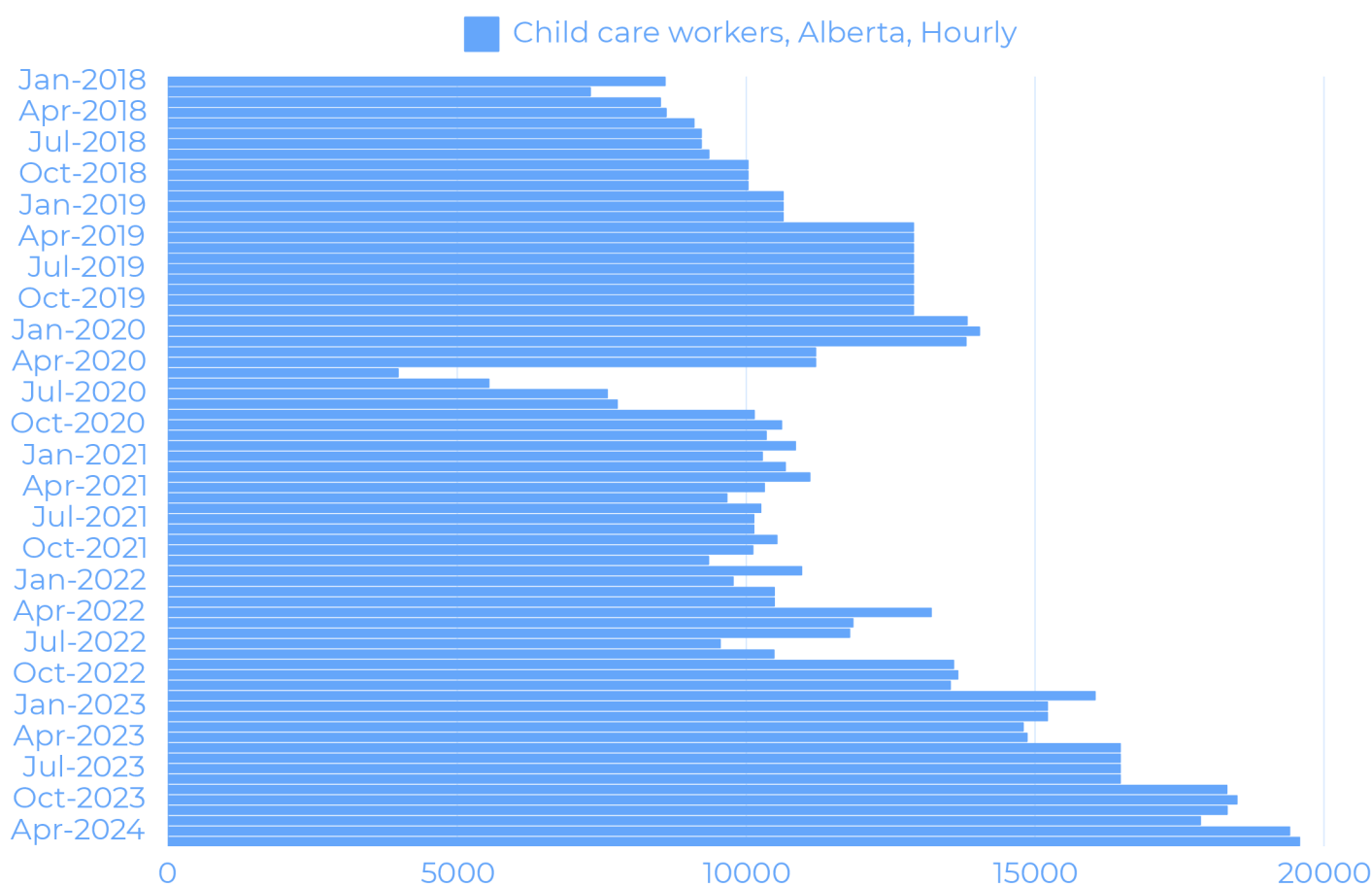
To complement our op-ed, we have summarized recent statistics of the sector, main challenges and our asks below.

Key statistics:

% of children in child care, Alberta



The growing number of child care workers in the province



Key challenges facing early learning and child care educators: educational standards, wages, leadership support, and working conditions.

A quality workforce and high-quality care go hand in hand.

Key policy actions:

- strengthen staff requirements to uphold quality care.
- refine certification requirements to meet sector standards.
- raise educational requirements to meet the evolving needs of children.
- provide ongoing and continuous professional learning opportunities.
- create a compensation bundle that includes fair wages and benefits.
- ensure supportive working conditions.