April 15, 2025

Dear Laura Pratt,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to speak to the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta and share the Green Party of Canada's platform. We appreciate your continued advocacy.

Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Karine Cambron
Coordinator, Survey and Questionnaire Response Team
Green Party of Canada

Workforce Compensation and Professionalization
1. How will your party ensure fair wages, benefits, and improved working conditions for early childhood educators? 2. What initiatives would you include to professionalize the field, including funding for training and career advancement opportunities?

The Green Party believes early childhood educators deserve fair pay, real benefits, and dignity at work. We will strengthen and expand the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system with long-term federal funding. This stable investment will give centres the resources to offer better wages and working conditions. We support a national child care workforce strategy that includes higher pay, training supports, and clear career pathways. We also propose raising the federal minimum wage to $21/hour and creating a livable wage index to reflect the real cost of living in each region.

To professionalize the field, we will invest in training, certification, and career advancement. Our workforce strategy includes support for better training and long-term growth. We will expand access to education by removing financial barriers —offering income supports for ECEs seeking training. This includes permanent investments in labour market training and a commitment to make the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework fully funded and accessible. We want to build a workforce that feels valued, skilled, and supported, and we'll back that up with funding and policy.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention
3. What strategies will your party adopt to address the growing workforce shortage in ELCC and to attract and retain qualified educators?

To tackle the shortage of qualified educators, we will invest in underserved areas and increase the number of child care spaces across the country. We support improving wages and working conditions for ECEs to help attract and keep qualified professionals. We would prioritize training access, immigration pathways for care workers, and create a national database to match workers with new opportunities. A strong child care system needs a strong workforce — and we're ready to invest in both**.**

System Supports and Infrastructure
4. How will your party invest in system-level supports (e.g., data collection, workforce planning, professional development, research) that strengthen the ELCC sector and support ECEs in their practice?

We believe good policy is based on good data. That's why we support national data collection, workforce planning, and ongoing professional development. We'll work with provinces and Indigenous governments to ensure every region has what it needs — whether that's training, research, or better funding. We'll also support the full implementation of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. The goal is clear: give educators the tools they need and build system-wide resilience for the long term.

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement
5. How will your party commit to maintaining and strengthening the CWELCC agreement, including ensuring stable long-term funding and working collaboratively with provinces and territories to enhance workforce supports and quality improvements?

We are fully committed to protecting and growing the CWELCC system. We would ensure stable, long-term federal funding, and push to make child care a permanent public service. We will work with provinces and territories through a new Council of Canadian Governments to support collaboration and system improvements. Our goal is to remove all remaining financial barriers to access and make child care universally available and high quality. We want every child and every educator to thrive.