October 5, 2019
**Ontario’s Status on Early Learning and Child Care**
CFUW: Existing policy. The first mention of early learning and child care as policy for CFUW was in 1972. At that time it was suggested that advisory services for consultation on child health services be instituted.
In 2006 there was a resolution by UWC Victoria and CFUW Status of Women Committee, as follows:
“Resolved: That the Canadian Federation of University Women reaffirm its existing policy and urge the Government of Canada to give priority to the creation of a quality, universally accessible and comprehensive early learning and child care program which emphasizes the development of the whole child. Funding
for this initiative should involve all levels of government through cost-sharing mechanisms, as in other human services such as health, education and social programs.”
At present, in Ontario, waiting lists are long and affordability is a problem throughout the province.
For example, in 2018, the median monthly fee in London was $1,129.00; in Hamilton it was $1,497.00 and in Toronto it was $1,685.00!
Child Care Now (CFUW has signed on as a partner) wants an “Affordable Child Care Plan for All by 2030.
What are we hearing from the Federal parties?
1. The New Democratic Party::
- Will develop a partnership with the provinces and
territories which are constitutionally responsible for the  delivery of services
- Will establish a free or low cost child care by 2030,
- $10.00 per day top cost
- Will spend $10 billion over the next four years
- Create 500,000 child care spaces
Liberal Party:
- Increase the accessibility and affordability of before and after school care in elementary schools
- Increase, by 250,000,  more spaces in 5-10 years
- New funding $535 million a year
3. The Conservative Party:
- No announcements (so far) regarding child care.
- Promise maternity benefits tax free
- Sports, arts and learning fees can be claimed re taxes
TheGreenParty:
-A statement “ Universal Child Care” is crucial to women’s equality
- Increase funding from 1% of GDP to $1 billion annually.
On behalf of Ontario Council,  Margaret McGovern attended the AGM of Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. A brief summary includes the following information.
- The cuts suggested by the provincial government have been put on hold until January 2020. This may give CFUW some room to examine centres in our municipalities and advocate on their behalf.
-There is concern because, if the cuts go forward, the province wants the municipalities to cost share, but it is voluntary
- Freeze on expansion
- Funding to for-profits
– The prioritization of non-profits has been removed

Respectfully submitted by Moira Forbes