

Feedback on ELCC Legislation submitted to the Federal Secretariat on ELCC

The Atkinson Centre at OISE/University of Toronto and Institute for Change Leaders hosted a Virtual Roundtable -

Affordability:

There was agreement that the \$10 day goal, depending on its interpretation, may not promote equitable access. Concerns were also raised that quality could be sacrificed in the quest to lower fees.

\$10 per day is not affordable for many. Language needs to recognize low income and gig workers and encourage mechanisms that recognize ability to pay without relying on current subsidy systems which props up a market driven model.

\$10/day is an admirable goal and slogan, but affordability is different for different families. Hate that affordability has become the major retail politics for the federal and incumbent governments (outside QC and ON) because the legislation should be about care.

Cannot forget about care in the quest for affordability.

Quality:

Legislation needs to define what quality looks like. About ensuring we have qualified staff, treated with the same care we expect them to provide to our most vulnerable citizens.

Legislation needs to promote similar standards across provinces and territories i.e. staffing ratios, ECE education requirements, quality measurements.

Monitoring and reporting:

Requiring consistent data collection, quality monitoring, and public reporting will be important to building and sustaining a system.

Common accountability mechanisms would help unify the reporting.

A caution was raised about how specific federal legislation can be with respect to defining principles or objectives without intruding so much into provincial jurisdiction that the Act could be subject to successful legal challenge.

Legislative timetable:

Timing was a lively debate with some feeling a minority government and the potential of a spring election in 2023 required quick action to get legislation passed to protect the agreements. Others pointed to a problematic consultation processes that needs rectification before reasoned input can be provided.

Challenges within the process:

ESDC wants input into legislation by March 14th when there has been nothing publicly said about legislation.

The consultation isn't announced anywhere—not on the website. The media don't know about it. There have been no media releases.

The call out for input is too limited; not able to gather meaningful input particularly from Aboriginal communities and marginalized groups.

It is unlikely there will be substantial civic engagement by March 14th.

Legislation will be based on the agreements but we don't know what all the agreements say and don't have a timeline for when the full text of all the signed agreements will be publicly available.

Hard to propose what we want to see in the legislation until we know what has been agreed to, in black and white, in each jurisdiction.

There is a risk that bringing in legislation quickly will distract P/T attention from achieving the 50% fee reduction by Dec/22.

