

RENEWING & EXPANDING ONTARIO'S EARLY YEARS & CHILD CARE SYSTEM

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Summer Institute
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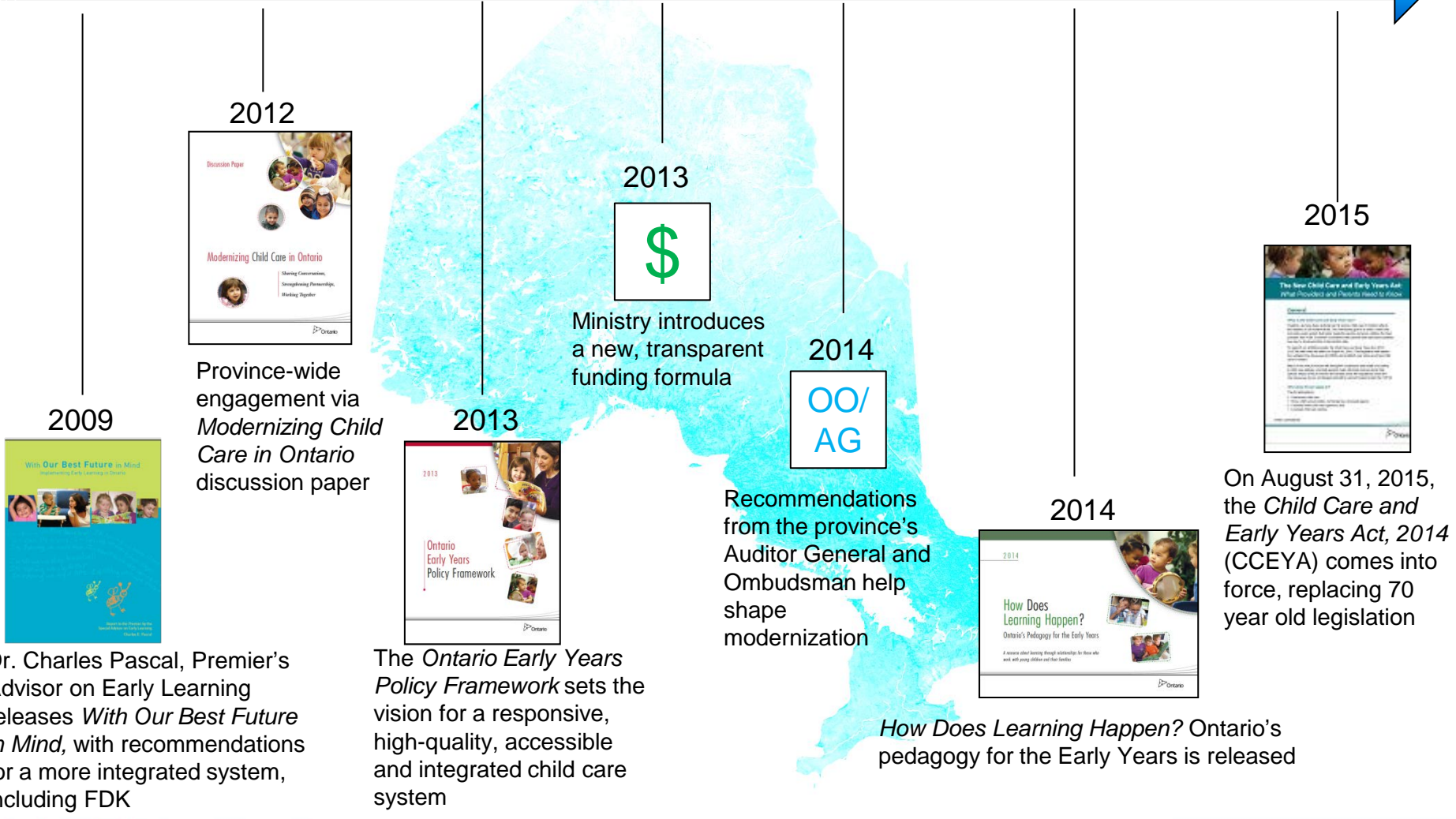


WHY WE'RE HERE

1. Ontario's Engagement on its Renewed Early Years and Child Care Framework
2. Provide Updates Regarding Ontario's Early Years System
3. Next Steps



Child Care in Ontario – Modernization Timeline



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Change to Ontario Cabinet Increases Focus on Child Care

New Associate Minister of Education Will Lead Work on Early Years and Child Care

Office of the Premier

Premier Kathleen Wynne today announced a change to her cabinet that will help strengthen supports for parents and give children the best possible start in life.

Indira Naidoo-Harris, MPP for Halton, becomes Associate Minister of Education (Early Years and Child Care). She will lead the government's efforts, in partnership with the Minister of Education, to build a high-quality, accessible and affordable early years and child care system that supports choice and flexibility for parents and promotes healthy development for children.

Ontario Creating 100,000 More Licensed Child Care Spaces

Province Increasing Access to Affordable Child Care to Support Toronto Families

Ministry of Education

Within the next five years, Ontario will help to create another 100,000 new, licensed child care spaces so that more families in Toronto can find quality, affordable care.

Today's announcement reaffirms the commitment the government made in the recent Speech from the Throne. Ontario will help to create the new, licensed child care spaces for infants, toddlers and preschoolers within the next five years, with the first spaces opening in 2017.

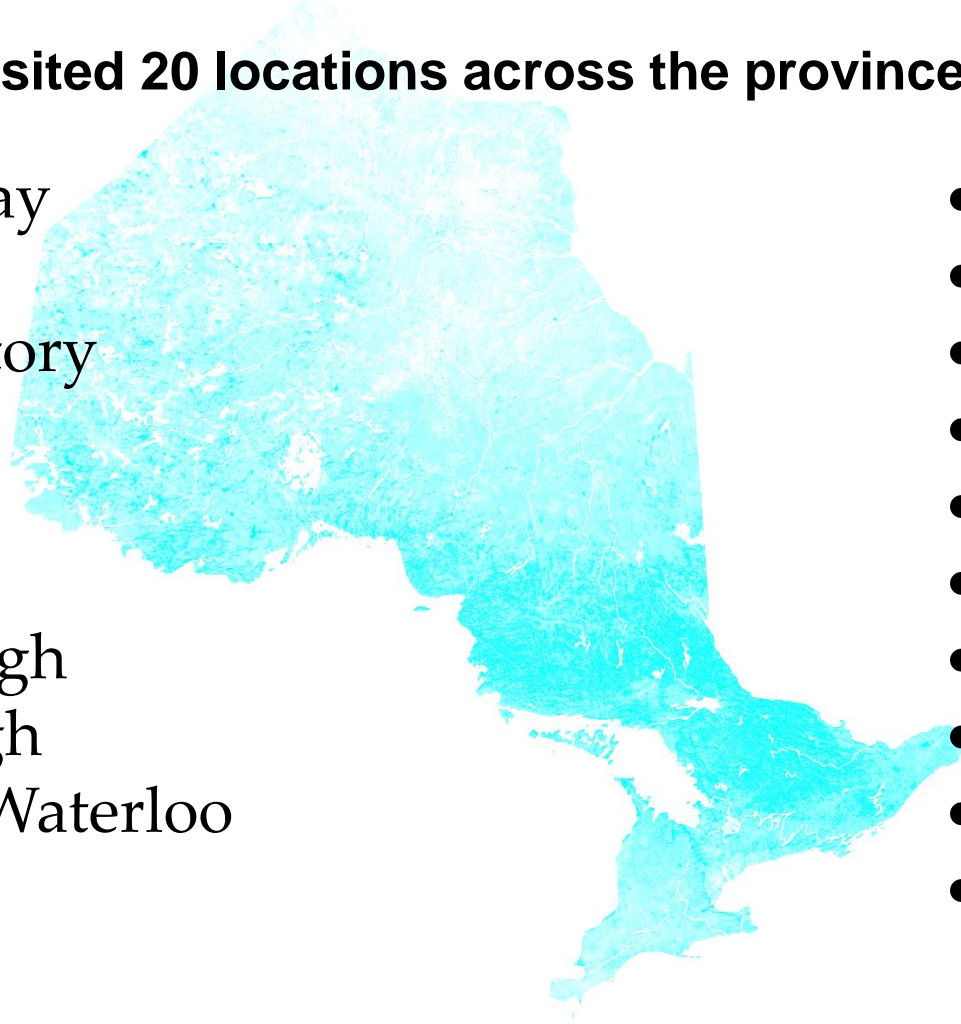
Approximately 20 per cent of 0-4 year olds in Ontario are currently in licensed child care. Research indicates that demand is much higher. **Creating 100,000 new spaces will double capacity**, creating spaces for about 40 per cent of children 0-4 years old.

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 Ontario

Engagement on our Renewed Vision

We visited 20 locations across the province:



- Thunder Bay
- Moosonee
- Moose Factory
- Toronto
- Brampton
- Milton
- Peterborough
- Scarborough
- Kitchener/Waterloo
- Ottawa

- Kingston
- London
- Windsor
- Wellington
- York Region
- Niagara
- Grey-Bruce
- Durham
- Sudbury
- York



Who We Heard From

2,085

people attended
in-person sessions

45

Stakeholder submissions
to our discussion paper

6,044

Responses to
online survey

We hosted conversations with a variety of people across Ontario, including:

- 15 engagement sessions with people in the sector, including child care providers and educators, Francophone and Indigenous stakeholders.
- 25 one-on-one interviews with employers, followed by a roundtable discussion
- 20 town hall sessions with parents, caregivers, early years and childcare-providers, employers, municipalities, school boards, experts and the public

Why Now?

- We know we have more work to do in ensuring that all children have access to quality child care and early years experiences.
- This is important because positive outcomes for children are most likely when:
 - Educators foster caring relationships with children and initiate positive and responsive interactions;
 - Programs provide stimulating materials and experiences that engage children’s curiosity and thinking through play-based approaches and;
 - Educators have higher levels of education and opportunities to participate in ongoing professional development.



Why Now?

- Even with continued growth, demand for child care exceeds supply and the **demand is increasing for licensed child care** for children 0-4 years old.
 - It is estimated that demand for child care for children 0-4 is approximately **45%-50%**.
 - The **0-4 child population is anticipated to grow** by approximately 1% per year over the next 5 years or about 5,000 additional children per year.
 - **Parents are experiencing particular challenges accessing infant and toddler spaces** due to changes in parental work patterns and the demographics of communities which have altered the availability and use of child care services across the province.
 - While there are regional child care variations, **access and affordability** issues are consistent across the province. Ontario's urban centres have the highest child care costs in Canada.

KEY PILLARS

Affordability

Recognizing the connection between access and affordability at different income levels, increase the funding for need-based fee subsidies to support parents seeking child care

Supports the province's Poverty Reduction Strategy

Access

Increasing access to licensed child care and early years programs by expanding the number of licensed child care spaces and transforming child and family programs

Supports work force participation; helps narrow gender wage gap

Quality

Ensuring licensed child care and early years programs are high quality through outcome measurement, pedagogy for healthy child development, and well-trained and compensated staff

Supports healthy child development and well-being

Responsiveness

Meeting the needs of families and children through early years programs and child care in schools, communities, workplaces, and at home.

Support for work force participation in all regions of the province

Inclusivity

WHAT WE HEARD: ACCESS

Access

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WHAT WE HEARD: RESPONSIVENESS

Responsiveness

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WHAT WE HEARD: AFFORDABILITY



Affordability
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WHAT WE HEARD: QUALITY



Quality

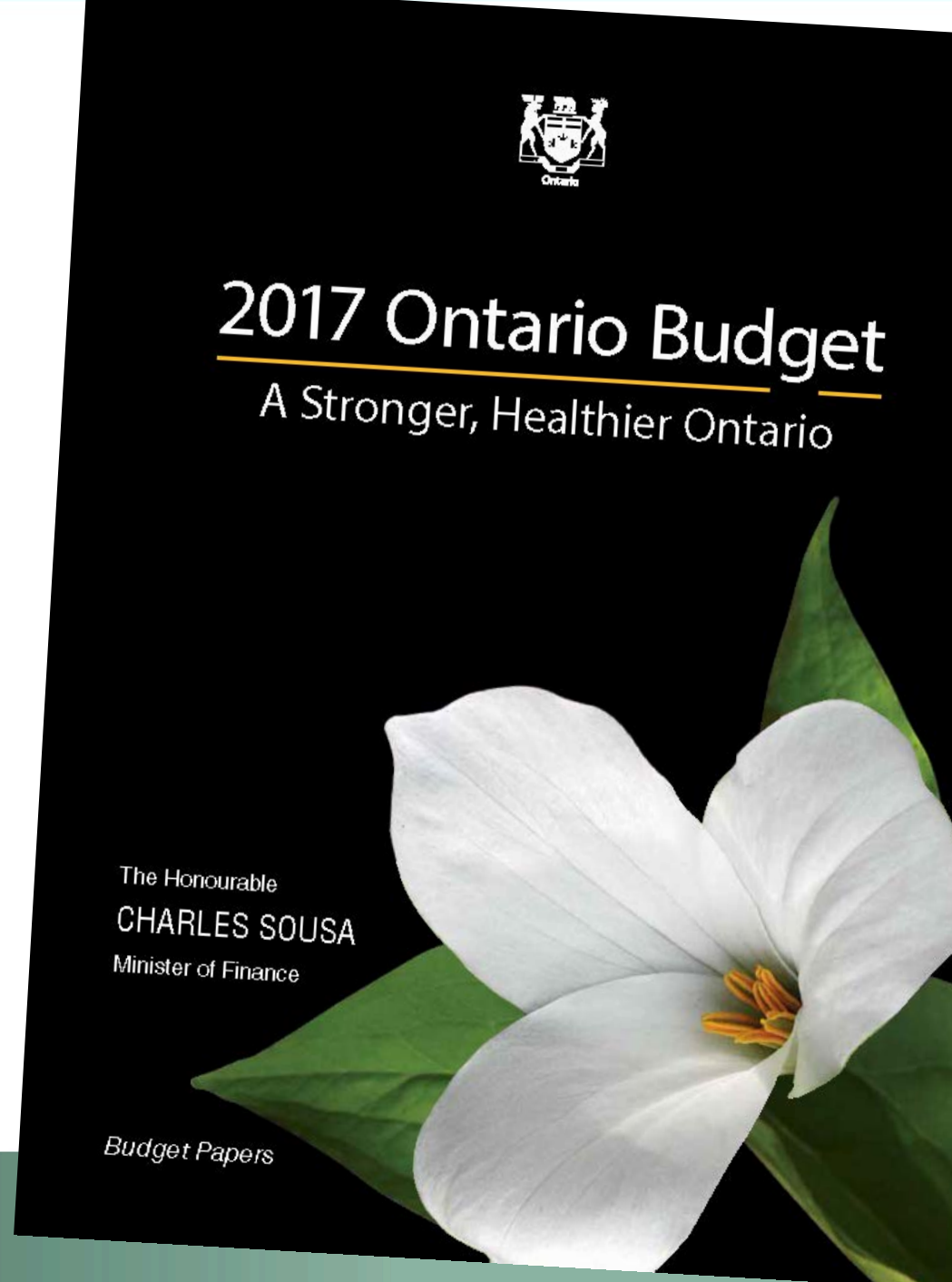
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2017 Ontario Budget

- In 2017, the ministry is providing \$1.37 billion to 47 municipalities, including wage enhancement and child care expansion plan funding
- In 2017-18, the \$200 million investment announced in the 2017 Budget will support access to licensed child care for 24,000 more children aged 0-4.

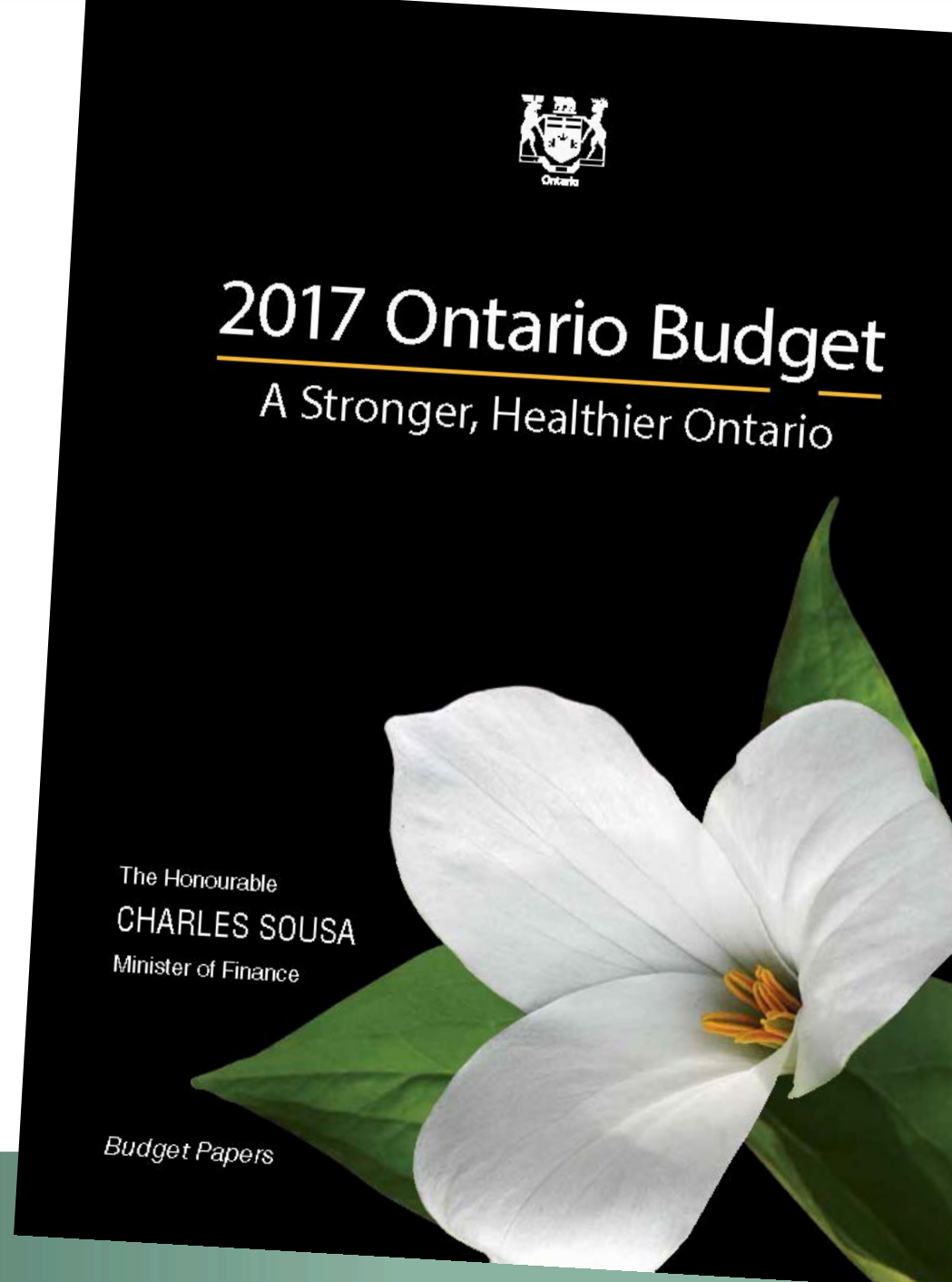


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2017 Ontario Budget

Renewed investments will:

- Provide greater responsiveness to parents' needs and ease the transition for children with special needs, and
- help to address affordability and reduce fee subsidy waitlists



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Recent Areas of Focus

- Expanding before- and after-school programming for children aged 6 to 12, where there is sufficient demand;
- Integrating Ontario's child and family programs into a more streamlined and accessible service;
- Continued monitoring of FDK implementation; and
- Increasing investments in licensed child care



INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

- Ontario Early Years Centres
- Parenting and Family Literacy Centres
- Child Care Resource Centres
- Better Beginnings, Better Futures

Transforming into

Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres

To support children and families to learn, grow and connect – together.



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE



Expanding Services for Children 6-12

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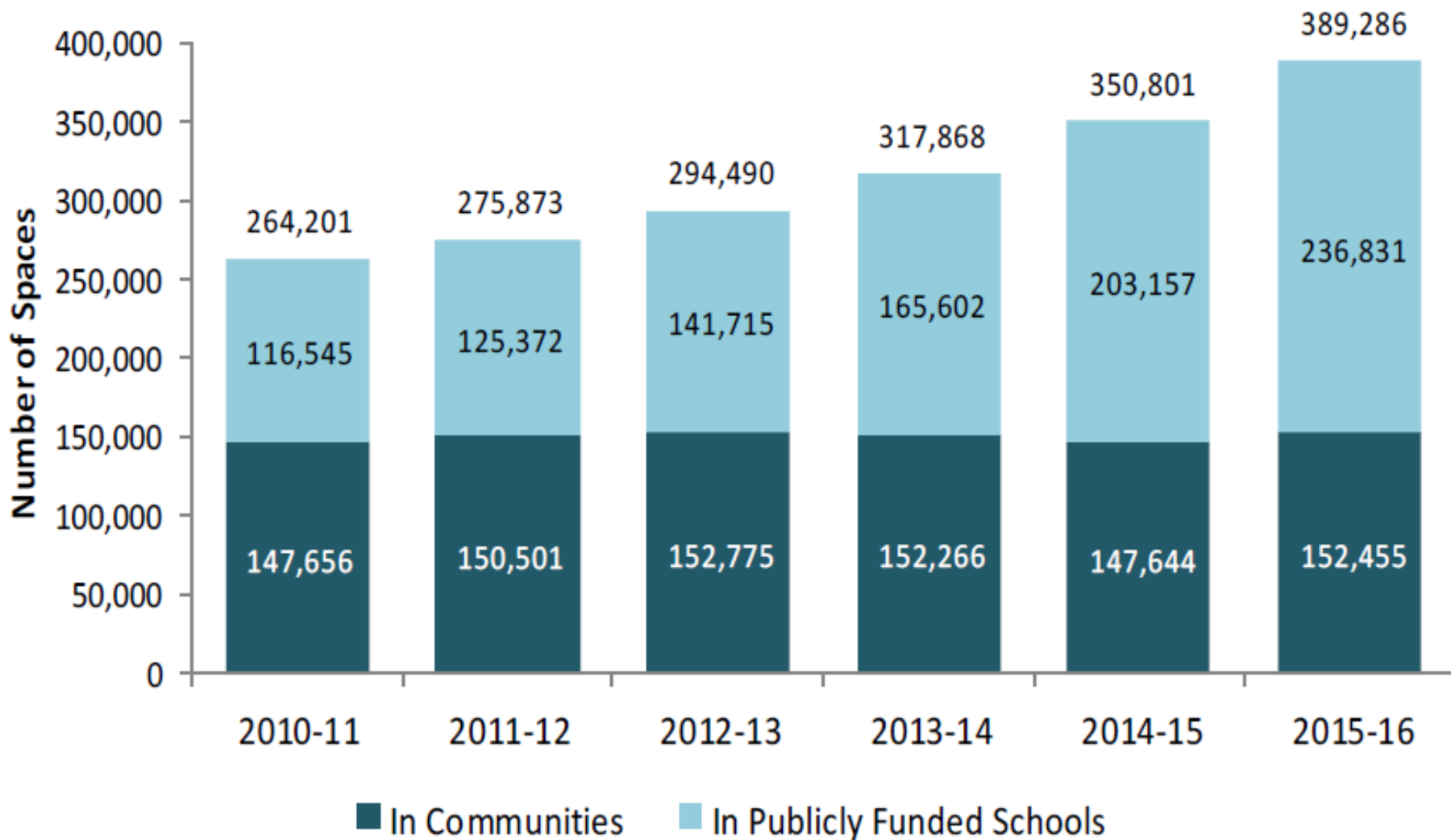
Increased Investments in Child Care

- In 2017, the ministry is providing **\$1.37 billion** to 47 municipalities, including wage enhancement and child care expansion plan funding.
- This investment will increase the number of child care spaces in Ontario. As of 2015–16, the number of licensed child care spaces in Ontario has grown to nearly 390,000 – an increase of more than **108 per cent** since 2003–04.
- This investment supports child care operating costs, including: operating funding, fee subsidies, supports for children with special needs, and administration.



CHILD CARE – KEY FACTS

Number of Spaces in Licensed Child Care Centres



HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN?



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PLAY-BASED LEARNING

Play is a vehicle for learning and rests at the core of innovation and creativity. It provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive. Play and academic work are not distinct categories for young children, and learning and doing are also inextricably linked for them. It has long been acknowledged that there is a strong link between play and learning for young children, especially in the areas of problem solving, language acquisition, literacy, and mathematics, as well as the development of social, physical, and emotional skills



Supporting Indigenous Children and Families

Journey Together Early Years Commitments

Up to \$93.5M over the next two years including:

- ✓ *On Reserve* – Up to \$23.5M over the next two years for new and enhanced child and family programs delivered by First Nations, with up to \$12M in ongoing annual operating funding beginning in 2018-19.
- ✓ *Off reserve* – Up to \$70M over the next two years (including capital investments) for child care and child and family programs delivered by Indigenous-led organizations, with ongoing annual operating funding of up to \$30M beginning in 2018-19.

Framework:

- ✓ Work with First Nations and the federal government to expand access to on child care on reserve



NEXT STEPS



- The ministry:
 - Has analyzed the feedback and advice received through the engagement process and consultations on its renewed vision
 - Is releasing the Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework and Expansion Strategy
 - Will continue to engage with partners and stakeholders to inform early years and child care policy and programs to achieve the objectives identified in the renewed framework



THANK YOU!