



My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

I am an early childhood educator with \_\_\_\_\_ years of post secondary education and training at the college level. I hold a valid license to practice from the Early Childhood Registry in Victoria and I renew my license to practice every five years. I am trained and qualified to work with:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infants and Toddlers    | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Needs children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three to Five year olds | <input type="checkbox"/> School aged children   |

I love my work and I can think of no other job I would rather be doing.

My biggest challenge is the low wages and benefits I receive.

While the provincial government does provide some funds to childcare and preschool programs, it is approximately 12% of our total budget. Parent fees make up the majority of our operating funds and this is simply wrong. I want to see a system developed in our country and our province that allows for parents to have access to quality early learning and care programs when their children need them, programs that are affordable to families and that pay the early childhood educator a fair living wage. I want to be valued for my work and to earn a living wage, a wage that is not predominately paid for from your parent fees.

I have been working as an early childhood educator since \_\_\_\_\_ and my current salary is \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour. My benefits are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Service Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Short term disability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dental               | <input type="checkbox"/> Paid sick leave        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extended health      | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have benefits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RRSP contributions   |   |

I need to earn a living wage and I deserve to earn a wage that is on par with my education, training and experience. My professional association is calling on a wage of \$20 per hour. I support this and at the same time understand the challenge it could bring to this program.

I know that quality early learning and care experiences make a life-long difference in the health and well-being of children. I want to see a society where our youngest children are valued and where programs like ours receive adequate resources through dedicated government funding.