



What are you willing to do to increase your professionalism, advocacy and leadership skills? Look at the following list and check the items you are willing to do. After reviewing the items you've checked,

ELCC Advocacy

I will:

- Object to all references to my work as 'babysitting' or other statements that undervalue my work.
- Join NSCCA² to help make my voice for better child care louder. And I'll encourage two colleagues to join too 😊.
- Join an advocacy network in support of public investment in ELCC.
- Speak out to friends, colleagues, family, and others about the link between wages and working conditions and the quality of early learning and care that children receive.
- Acknowledge my own leadership abilities.
- Tell my personal story to a policy maker in a letter or through a visit.
- Write a letter to the editor in response to a child care story.
- Be an informed voter and vote when I have the opportunity.
- Create opportunities for parents to act (for example: to make calls, write letters, or talk to policy makers).
- Continue my own education to build advocacy and leadership skills.
- Start or maintain a portfolio that reflects my accomplishments and professional growth.
- Set goals to improve my wages and work environment.
- Mentor or be a 'buddy' to another early childhood educator or practitioner.
- Be a guest speaker to a class, community meeting, parent group, or early childhood conference on worthy wages and quality child care.
- Invite an elected official or community/business leader to visit my program to show early learning child care in action and discuss the challenges I face.

Working with co-workers, colleagues, & community, I will:

- Celebrate the accomplishments of our work.
- Help plan an event that brings early learning and child care issues into public focus. I could volunteer on a committee, design flyers, stuff envelopes, make calls, work on strategy, etc.

¹ Adapted from Center for the Child Care Workforce, 2002.

² c/o 100-1200 Tower Road, Halifax, NS B3H 4K6 (902)423-8199 or 1-800-565-8199

- Keep a written record of the impact of the child care staffing crisis on our work, document our progress, broadcast 'good news', and celebrate successes in improving environments and reducing turnover in my program and in my community.

Signature: _____

Date: _____