



March 21, 2005

Dear Minister:

We are pleased to introduce a recent initiative undertaken by the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada and funded by Social Development Canada. This three year project, entitled *Child Care Policy: Making The Connections* is intended to build the capacity of the child care community, provincial and territorial governments, and other interested community members to better understand and comment on the implications of the development of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) policy and investments. Our work will encompass child care policy and funding developments under existing federal/provincial/territorial agreements (such as the Early Childhood Development Agreement and the Multilateral Framework Agreement on ELCC), and any new agreements.

The overall goal of our work under this project will be to advance the evidence-based development of quality child care services across Canada, supporting jurisdictions and communities in learning from each other. We will prepare popularized reports based on provincial/territorial data on ELCC, in a format that is comparable whenever possible. In addition to building community capacity to better understand child care policy, the project will emphasize improved understanding of the financial analysis of related public funding.

Our work on this project supports the cross-government commitment to inform Canadians through better public accountability and transparency. We expect to improve networking between ELCC partners and communities, including governments, and facilitate broad dissemination of public information on ELCC policy and funding.

We are also pleased to announce that Lynell Anderson, a BC-based Certified General Accountant and child care advocate, is our Project Director. Lynell is currently compiling baseline public information on ELCC available from federal, provincial and territorial web sites, developing a preliminary template for our analyses, and checking in with our networks and partners across the country to discuss the potential for capacity-building support.

Over the course of this project, we look forward to working in various ways with community members and governments in all of the provinces and territories, other than Quebec. We want to stress that our objective in this project is to provide tools and resources that will support capacity building and planning within governments and across communities. This approach respects provincial and territorial jurisdiction in the delivery of ELCC services, enhances public accountability, and reflects the reality of our limited project resources.

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada was founded in 1983 to promote quality, inclusive, publicly funded, non-profit child care accessible to all. The association's more than 140,000 members include parents, caregivers, researchers and students; and women's, anti-poverty, labour, social justice, disability and rural organizations. We welcome your questions and thoughts regarding this project and the work of the CCAAC. We enclose a copy of our project announcement for your information, invite you to visit our web site at www.childcareadvocacy.ca, and encourage you to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Monica Lysack
Acting Executive Director
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada

Cc Deputy Minister