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Statement by Canada and Quebec's child care coalitions

Unprecedented joint effort to win Parliamentary support for child care funding in budget

Montreal and Ottawa, April 28, 2006 - *La Coalition des services de garde et des services aux familles* and the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada are joining forces to pressure federal politicians of all parties to deliver multi-year funding for child care in the federal budget.

We are doing so in an effort to ensure that Canada's Parliament acts to fulfill its responsibilities to young children and their parents.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to cancel promised funding to the provinces and territories will strike a blow to families in Quebec and the rest of Canada. The decision ignores the reality of Canadian families who need flexible quality child care whether they are in the workforce, at home or in school. It also flies in the face of extensive research and experience here and internationally that demonstrates the benefits of quality early learning and child care for children, families and society at large.

The cancellation of funding will have serious repercussions for families and children. Quebec, which already has a system of child care services, will lose \$807 million in promised funding, and there is concern that parent fees will increase. Fledgling child care services in other provinces and territories are also in severe jeopardy. All in all, the termination of the funding amounts to almost a \$4 billion cut.

Michèle Asselin, President, *Fédération des femmes du Québec*, Jean-Robitaille, Executive Director, *Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance du Québec* and Monica Lysack, Executive Director of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada are available to answer questions from the media.

Our two coalitions represent parents, the child care and family service sectors, women's and community groups and unions who have been mobilizing public support for secure and stable funding for early learning and child care.

We will continue these efforts in every province and territory, and will be pressing Parliament to provide annual funds in the budget of least \$1.2 billion for high quality child care. Public support for our position is incredibly strong, and the momentum is building daily.

We also want to state that we believe that parents deserve income support. However, the government's proposed \$1200 taxable family allowance is strikingly unjust and inequitable. It discriminates against single-parent families and those with more than one

income earner. Since it taxes the lowest income earner in a family, it also disproportionately benefits the wealthy.

We believe that families need and deserve both access to quality child care and equitable income support. We call on Parliament to do both. We know the government can afford it. As a society, we can't afford not to.

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Sources :

Monica Lysack, (613) 594-3196 ext.232, (613) 286-5892 (cellulaire)

For Québec :

Élise Desjardins, (514) 899-9916, (514) 795-8444 (cellulaire)

The members of the *Coalition des services de garde et des services aux familles* are:

Association des enseignantes et enseignants en technique d'éducation à l'enfance

Association des services de garde en milieu scolaire du Québec

Association du personnel cadre des centres de la petite enfance du Québec

Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance

Carrefour action municipale et famille

Centrale des syndicats du Québec

Chantier de l'économie sociale

Confédération des syndicats nationaux

Fédération des associations de familles mono-parentales et récomposées du Québec

Fédération des femmes du Québec

Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec

Fédération québécoise des organismes communautaires famille

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) has more than 140,000 members made up of parents, caregivers, researchers and students; and women's, anti-poverty, labour, social justice, disability and rural organizations. These include: YWCA Canada, Campaign 2000 and Canadian Federation of Students among many others.