



## ***Liberal child care announcement: Hits and Misses / L'annonce des Libéraux en matière de services de garde : des bons coups et des ratés***

*CCAAC Ottawa 7 Dec 05*

The Liberal's child care plan hits the target for Canada's families who recognize that only a national system – not cash payments - will provide the child care spaces that they need, but the plan misses the target in several key areas.

*Hit:* The commitment to making child care a **permanent program** – a cornerstone of Canada's social programs like Medicare.

*Miss: No legislative framework.* The Liberals must make good on their 2004 promise to introduce child care legislation to ensure accountability for public child care dollars by enshrining standards for quality, universality and inclusiveness, accessibility and developmental programming.

*Hit:* Commitment to **sustained funding** – up from five years to ten.

*Miss:* No increase in funding. New spaces created in one year will require the current annual funding commitment just to continue operating. Growth can only happen with incremental increases to funding—to achieve the goal of a space for every child in Canada. To fund a national program, **we need substantial annual increases.**

*Hit:* Agreements with provinces directing funds to a system of **regulated** community-based programs – a far cry from “institutional care.”

*Miss: No commitment to establishing child care as a public service.* Despite evidence documenting the advantages of non-profit/public delivery of child care services, the Liberal plan makes no move in that direction. How committed is the Prime Minister to public health care if he is so reluctant to direct federal funding to not-for-profit child care?

*Hit:* Recognition that an infrastructure strategy is required for child care.

*Miss: No capital strategy.* CCAAC is calling for a \$2 billion development fund directed to non-profit expansion of child care spaces. By folding child care into a vague commitment about renewing “pertinent infrastructure programs” they are making child care compete with roads, bridges and sewers—a contest where child care can only lose.

Canadian families can't afford to have any government miss the target on child care. Getting it right requires a commitment to increased funding, legislation, capital, and a commitment to establish child care as a non-profit public service available to all children.