



NDP child care platform puts children and families before politics

CCAAC Ottawa 12 Dec 05

The NDP's community-based child care plan provides concrete measures to meet the real needs of today's families and give all children a good start in life, the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada said today.

"Their child care platform builds it right," said CCAAC executive director Monica Lysack. "They've listened to parents and the experts, and are putting investments in children, families and communities before politics and corporate profits."

Currently there are only enough regulated spaces for 15% of Canada's children. Lysack praised the party's plan to move toward the goal of a child care space for every child in Canada. "This is a solid commitment to increase funding and grow the system every year, giving parents the real child care options they need now."

"The NDP understands that only a comprehensive public system can provide quality early learning experiences for children and support for everyone involved in their lives: working or at-home parents, caregivers and grandparents. When public funding resources the community, you can put in place innovative, responsive programs—a far cry from institutionalized child care."

Lysack said the NDP proposal includes all of the building blocks for a quality system. She commended the party's plan to provide funds to expand child care only in the non-profit sector. "Commercial child care is not an efficient way to deliver services. As well, big box child care chains have been eyeing Canada as their next profit-making frontier. It is important that public dollars not be used to bankroll for-profit child care because that won't deliver what parents or children need."

The NDP would also introduce legislation to ensure accountability and guarantee standards of quality, universality, inclusion, accessibility and developmental programming. Advocates consider a legislative framework key to creating a permanent national program.

"The NDP is the only party that is walking the talk of making community-based child care a reality for families," Lysack said. "The Conservative plan is a throwback to another era. The Liberal plan so far lacks real commitment to growing a system."