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Canadian, Quebec child care coalitions on Parliament Hill for Budget watch:
Expected changes to Tory child care plan, still don't make it child care

OTTAWA - Representatives of La Coalition québécoise des services de garde et des services aux familles and the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada will be on Parliament Hill tomorrow for the release of the Federal Budget.

The two organizations have joined forces to ensure Canada's Parliament upholds funding agreements with the provinces to develop regulated child care.

It is expected that the government will respond to widespread criticism of its child care plan by lessening the tax penalties to low income, single parent and two income earner families under its \$1,200 taxable allowance. Mr. Harper has already conceded that the second plank of his strategy, increasing child care spaces through tax incentives to business, was ill-conceived. It is expected this part of the plan will be delayed for more study.

"Regardless of how the government tinkers with its allowance; it is not a child care plan and it remains inadequate as an income supplement," said Michèle Asselin, of the Quebec Coalition.

"The time for study was before the budget. If this government really wants to expand child care, it should honor the agreements in place with the provinces. It is the provinces and territories that have the responsibility and the means to develop child care," says Monica Lysack, executive director of the Child Care Advocacy Association.

Child care options for families have expanded during the first two years of the 5 year early learning and child care deals which were to have transferred \$5-billion to the provinces. Most Premiers have signaled they would do more if funding continues beyond March 2007.

For more information or to arrange interviews please contact:

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