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OTTAWA--

Child care to become focus of Parliamentary struggle: Throne Speech shows no compromise

Parliament opened today with the government showing no willingness to balance the needs of families for quality, child care options and income support. With no conciliatory sign from Mr. Harper, activists expect child care will take centre stage in this session of Parliament.

“We have said, and the opposition parties agree, that multi-year funding to the provinces to develop regulated child care spaces is essential,” said Monica Lysack, executive director of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada. “The Throne Speech indicates the government does not recognize that compromise with Parliament is required if it is to deliver on any of its commitments. We expect the opposition parties and Canadians to school the Tories in the realities of minority government.”

The battle for child care will now be played out against the debate around the Throne Speech and the Budget. Child care advocates will be looking for at least \$1.2-billion annually to the provinces for 5 years targeted to licensed child care. They will also look for changes in the \$1,200 allowance proposed by the Tories to ensure that it is distributed fairly to families.

“As currently designed the wealthy banker’s stay-at-home wife pockets almost all the allowance while the single mom bank teller keeps less than a third,” said Lysack. “This is a fundamental clash with Canadian’s appreciation for equity.”

Monica Lysack will be available at the Centre Block following the Speech from the Throne phone: 613 286 5892 or Kerry McCuaig: 647 295 2808.

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For more information:

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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.

