



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Throne Speech

### **New government must tackle stable funding for child care**

OTTAWA-Parents, mayors, senators, activists and businesswomen's and school board organizations are among a broad range of Canadians who will be watching tomorrow's Throne Speech for a sign that the new government will fund a quality child care program, says the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada. CCAAC Executive Director Monica Lysack said the Conservatives must heed the loud call from Canadians to provide stable funding for quality child care.

"In little more than a month and with hardly any publicity, more than to 30,000 Canadians, including Olympic gold medalist Hailey Winckenheiser, senators, mayors and the Cornwall chief of police have signed a letter to the Prime Minister, Leaders of the Opposition, and Premiers:

*We are calling on you to work together to honour the promise of a national child care program. The place to start is by protecting the early learning and child care agreements between the Government of Canada and the provinces. The federal-provincial agreements on child care were negotiated in good faith. They lay a foundation for a full system of early learning and child care that can meet the needs of all Canadian families. Cancelling them sets back the development of a national child care program for years to come, leaving families with young children to fend for themselves. Breaking federal-provincial child care agreements would be a breach of public trust and would lead to a cut of almost \$4 billion from child care funding. The federal election results were not a mandate to turn back the clock on child care. While income support for families is a valid policy goal, a taxable family allowance and a tax credit for employers will not create early learning and child care services that are high quality, available and affordable. Families need income supports and publicly funded child care services. We call on all governments to protect and enhance progress on child care.*

Lysack said the Conservative's proposed taxable \$1,200-a-year allowance will not provide child care options for today's families, who need access to affordable quality child care spaces as well as income support. "

As well, the Conservative proposal for an employer child care tax credit won't create those spaces, Lysack said. Ontario's Mike Harris government introduced a similar plan and it was a dismal failure. "Few employers are big enough to take on running a child care program. It also takes a lot more than a \$10,000 tax credit to build a quality child care space, and the lack of operating funds is another big disincentive for starting any new child care program."

“Canadians everywhere are calling on the government to act for children and families by providing communities with the funding they need to build quality early learning and care services,” Lysack said.

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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.