



*The following statement is signed by a cross-section of organizations and individuals who believe that we all have a stake in helping parents raise the next generation of Canadians.*

### **Children and Families Deserve More than Empty Conservative Promises**

As the federal election draws near, Canadians concerned about the country's future should closely examine the Conservative child care promises. These promises are a throwback to the past. They will not deliver the kind of high quality child care our children deserve nor the support today's parents need. Instead, a Stephen Harper government would erase the progress we have finally begun to make towards building a system of accessible care for children across Canada.

*The Conservatives say they would create 125,000 child care spaces through a \$10,000 tax credit to employers.*

Past experience with this trickle-down approach has been dismal. Mike Harris's government used the same scheme—a tax incentive to employers for workplace child care—and no new spaces were created. Saskatchewan and New Brunswick had similar programs with poor results. In any case, most workplace child care in Canada is associated with public sector employers who can't take advantage of tax credits.

The Conservatives' math is also questionable. Capital and start-up costs for developing a child care space are considerably more than a \$10,000 tax credit, especially in big cities. For example, in Vancouver, the cost would be closer to \$40,000 because of the high cost of land and construction.

And what about the cost of operating affordable spaces once they're created? Employers have shown they're not willing to fund the ongoing cost of workplace child care and that leaves parents and provincial governments on the hook.

*Stephen Harper says he'll tear up child care funding agreements with the provinces.*

The Conservatives would take back billions of already-committed child care funding that the provinces are counting on. The provinces are responsible for child care and would have to abandon their plans to use these dollars for much-needed expansion and quality improvements, with devastating results. For example, Manitoba would have to cancel plans for 3,000 new community-based child care spaces and 200 nursery school places would no longer be feasible. Toronto would not get its planned 5,000 new subsidies to help low- and modest-income parents pay for child care and would not be able to build 58 new planned centres. Saskatchewan would have to cancel an announced wage increase for child care staff. And the plans of other provinces would meet a similar fate.

*No worries, the Conservatives will give families \$25 a week.*

The proposed allowance would be taxed back from all families except those with one parent at home, so \$25 represents a maximum. This cash would not help parents find high quality child care—you can't buy what doesn't exist. Even existing child care (only enough for 15% of young children) costs 10 or 20 times the \$3 or \$4 a day the allowance would provide. While many families do need income support, families with young children very much need and want a range of quality, affordable child care services. An increase in public investment in high quality child care and—at the same time—an increase in the existing National Child Benefit would make much more sense for today's families.

***Say no to the Conservative child care scheme***

Solving Canada's child care crisis will take a lot more than sound bites, simplistic ideas and discredited theories. Canada needs a plan and a program that recognizes the social and economic benefits that good early learning and child care produces for children, families and all of society. Most successful industrialized nations recognize the benefits of public investment in high quality child care and already have universal programs. Canada, its children and their families deserve one too.

We won't get it with the Conservative plan.

For more information:

Monica Lysack, Executive Director, Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, (613) 594-3196, ext. 232; cell: (613) 286-5892.

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.

**This statement is endorsed by the following organizations and individuals:**

Action Canada for Population and Development

Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario

BC Government and Service Employees' Union

Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)

Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

Canadian Federation of Students

Canadian Feed The Children, Toronto

Canadian Labour Congress

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) / Institut Canadien de recherches sur les femmes (ICREF)

Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

Child Care Coalition of Manitoba

Child Care Council of Ottawa

Childcare Resource and Research Unit,  
University of Toronto

Centre for Social Justice

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Communications, Energy & Paperworkers  
Union of Canada

Community Social Planning Council of  
Toronto

CUPE Local 2204  
Child Care Workers of Eastern Ontario

CUPE Local 2484  
Child Care Workers

CUPE National Child Care Working Group

Early Childhood Educators of BC

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

Feminist Alliance for International Action

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy  
Coalition

Hospital Employees Union

Integration Network Project, Institute of  
Child Study, OISE/University of Toronto

International Association of Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers

Islamic Social Services and Resources  
Association

Low Income Families Together (LIFT)  
Resource and Education centre

Manitoba Federation of Labour

Manitoba Government  
and General Employees Union

Medical Reform Group

Middle Years Matter Coalition

National Anti-Poverty Organization

National Association of Women and the  
Law

National Union of Public and General  
Employees (NUPGE)

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Ontario English Catholic Teachers'  
Association

Ontario Secondary School Teachers'  
Federation (OSSTF)

Ontario Women's Health Network

Ottawa Child Care Association

Parents for Quality Care, New Brunswick

Poverty and Human Rights Centre

Public Interest Alberta

Public Service Alliance of Canada, Ontario

Rural Voices

Saskatchewan Early Learning Child Care  
Coalition

Somali Family & Child Skills Development  
Services

Saskatoon Communities for Children

SpeciaLink, The National Inclusion  
Network

Success by Six, Saskatoon

Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care

Waterloo Regional Labour Council

Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre

West Kootenay Certified Dental Assistants  
Society

Yukon Child Care Association

YWCA Canada

## INDIVIDUALS

Alex Lisman, Taxpayer and Voter

Alice Winsby

Alisha Clory, ECCE student

Amanda Mayer, future Parent

Amber Fenton

Amy Robinson, Principal, Amy Robinson Consulting (and parent!)

Andrea Taurasi-Wood (Parent/E.C.E)

Angela Blanchard, Mother of 2 pre-schoolers in a Licensed Day Care

Anita Zaenker, future parent

Ann Robertson, Executive Director (CHANCES Family Centre)

Ann Silberman, Bowen Island, B.C.

Anne Ricard

April Boutin

April Kalyniuk

Arlene Giddings (Certified ECCE and Owner/operator of a home daycare)

Barb Keller

Barbara Ledwell Watton

Barbara Wood, parent

Barry Forer, Human Early Learning Partnership, UBC

Bernadette Walsh

Beryle M. Jones

Betty Bannon (National President UTE)

Betty Kelly, Researcher & Author

Beverley Arnason

Beverly-Ann de Sousa, St. Christopher House

Bill Moore-Kilgannon, Public Interest Alberta

Board of Directors, Dalhousie Parents' Day Care Centre

Bonnie Fox, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto

Bonnie Moore (Early Childhood Education accelerated program)

Bozica Costigliola

Brenda Goodine (Concerned citizen- Future Grandparent)

Brenda Kelley, Community Development Coordinator, Bathurst Sustainable Development (BSD)

Brenda Morse, Coordinator of Emergency Childcare and Family Resource Program (Scadding Court Community Centre)

Brenda Shillington

Bryan Burt, Parent

Canadian Women's Health Network

Candice Gosling

Cape Breton Non-Profit Directors Association.

Carla Kosak, President, National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)

Carol Gott, Owner/Operator

Carol Pauker and Bryan Marrion (2 children in Ferncliff Daycare, Toronto)

Carol Wood, Vancouver Parent

Caroline Kent, Early Childhood Educator

Catharine Tillsley, NCWC, Executive Administrator

Catherine Welsh (Mother and Grandma)

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh

Charlyn Monahan, ECE

Cheryl Scribner, Parent, Community Living - South Muskoka

Children's World Daycare Society, Pincher Creek, AB

Chrissie Handrahan, Parent/Early childhood educator

Christine Treganowan, VP, Board of Directors (Dalhousie Parents' Day Care Centre, Ottawa, Ont.)

Cindy Fenton

Colin Oloman

Colleen Bell

Connie Beninger

Coralee Livingston - Early Childhood Care Education Accelerated (Holland College, P.E.I.)

Cynthia Dempsey

Cynthia Magloughlin, President, Ottawa Federation of Parents' Day Care Centres

Daryl Hoelke, Executive Assistant, Union of Environment Workers (UEW)

Dave Ritchie

Deb Bray, Collections Enforcement Officer (grandparent concerned about child care, especially the Conservatives position.)

DeeAnne Feltham-Scott, Parent

Delphi Health and Leisure Centre

Diane McKean (Adventurers School Age Care LTD., Calgary Alta)

Diane Thorne, M.L.A., Coquitlam-Maillardville, B.C. (N.D.P. Childcare Critic)

Dianne Goldberg

Donna Mooney, The Children's Centre

Donna Riddell, Parent

Doreen Baird, Early Childhood Educator

Dorothy Commandeur, Executive Director (Greenfield School Age Day Care Association)

Dr. Ann W. Croll

Dr. Barbara Cameron, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University

Dr. Carl Corter, Professor and Atkinson Charitable Foundation Chair in Early Child Development and Education Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development, Institute of Child Study, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto

Dr. Clyde Hertzman, Director, Human Early Learning Partnership

Dr. Gordon Cleveland, Department of Management, University of Toronto

Dr. Hillel Goelman, Associate Director, Human Early Learning Partnership, University of British Columbia

Dr. Kathryn McNaughton, Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Teacher Educator

Dr. Michael Walsh

Dr. Pam Whitty, Professor, Early Literacies and Critical Studies, University of New Brunswick

Dr. Paul Kershaw, Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of British Columbia, Director of the Social Care and Social Citizenship Research Network and Co-Director of the Early Learning and Care Research Unit at the Human Early Learning Partnership

Dr. Susan Prentice, Professor, University of Manitoba

Edith Whetstone, grandparent and retired E.C.E

Eileen Rose

Elda Allen, Senior citizen (honorary board member Charlotte Birchard Centres of Early Learning)

Eleonore Benesch

Elizabeth J. Taylor, Volunteer English Tutor

Elizabeth Rivas, Executive Director A.C.E. Child Development Center (Calgary)

Elizabeth Wall, ECE student

Ellie McEvoy (Northalta Family Daycare)

Ernie Lightman, Professor, U of Toronto

Esther Seaman, ECE and parent (Kanata Research Park Family Centre)

Eve-Anne Tremblay, Early Childhood Educator

Francesco Misuraca, (Parent and Canadian Citizen)

Gay Pagan

George Buckley (Retired Secondary School Principal, parent and grandparent)

Gerald M Macdonald (parent)

Gillian Doherty, Ph.D. Child care researcher and consultant

Gladys James

Hazel White, ECE. (Charlottetown P.E.I.)

Heather Kelley

Ileana Strelkov (Parent at Students' Union and Community DayCare U of Alberta)

Innisfail Family Day Home Society

James L. Turk (Executive Director, Canadian Association of University Teachers)

Jamie S. MacDougall, Parent (Father)

Jane Beach, Child care research and policy consultant

Jane van Berkel, parent

Jane Wilson

Jason, Jacqueline & baby Stewart Copland (A concerned family)

Jean Guthrie, Coordinator (Women's Studies Program, Memorial University)

Jean Paul Leclerc, Parent

Jenelle Penner

Jennifer Kasaboski, Educational Assistant (Renfrew County Catholic and Public District S.B)

Jennifer Walters, ECE student

Jenny Robinson

Jessie McDonald

Jilliann Mudaliar, Executive Director (Richard Secord Out Of School Care Society)

Joan-Ann Gravesande

Jo-Ann D'Sylva, Teacher Central Commerce Collegiate

Joanne Beattie, Board President (Warton Kids Den Day Care Centre)

Jocelyne Desbiens

John Argue, Co-ordinator (Ontario Coalition for Social Justice)

Joyce McMann, Campbell River Child Care Society

Joyce Noble (Bayfair Daycare of Pickering Ontario)

Judy Callahan - Director, Child Care and Learning Centre/Adjunct Professor (University of Guelph)

Julia Darling (Glenora After School Care)

Julie Wong (graduating McGill law student)

Karen Carroll

Kate Carradine

Katie Deering

Kelly Thompson, Parent

Kerry Duggan, Parent/Family Support Worker

Khirsta McDowall (Dragons and Butterflies Preschool)

Kids Cottage Daycare Society (Chair of the Board)

Kim Fenton

Kim Gillis, Learning Manager (Early Childhood Care and Education Program College, P.E.I.)

Kim Hiscott, ECE.C

Kim Rudd, Community Advocate

Kim Rygiel, Parent and Doctoral candidate (Department of Political Science York University)

Kim Watts, Child Development Centre

Kimberly Earles (PhD Candidate, Political Science)

Kira Heineck

Kristi Horbasenko, concerned Parent

Kristy Arsenault (COWS Inc – Buyer)

Lana-Lee Hardacre, Conestoga College/parent

Lesley Inglis, parent

Liliana Sulikowska-Klebek

Linda Burrows, Executive Administrator (Sunshine Valley Child Care Society)

Lisa Paquet - Early Childhood Program (Holland College, P.E.I.)

Lisa Power, Parent

Lisa Stewart, Early Childhood Educator (St. Joseph's Early Childhood Centres)

Lise Gratton

Liz Simmons, Child Care Consultant

Lorene Rose (Safehaven Dayhomes and ICC agency LTD)

Lorraine Sheehan, Executive Director, Bay St. George Status of Women's Council

Lorraine Yeo, Parent of three children and Early Childhood Education student

Louise Heck, Program Coordinator (Boundary Child Care Resource & Referral)

Louise Sheppard

Luiza Monteiro, Parent

Lynell Anderson

Lynette Roy

Lynne Raskin (Executive Director, South Riverdale CHC)

Mab Oloman	Michele Campbell
Madeleine Funk (parent)	Michelle Morgan, Taking Our Places Researcher, Bay St. George, Status of Women
Maggie Fryklund	
Mani Mirany	Moira D'Aoust , Manager of Children's Integration Support Services in Ottawa
Marg Pearson, Teddy Bear Daycare (Sechelt, B.C.)	Monique Coupal
Margaret Milks, Children's Centre	Myles Lipton, MD and Ronit Little, Parents
Margot Young, parent and Associate Professor of Law, UBC	Naila Fehim
Marian T Hardy, ECE (Executive Director, Cariboo Child Care Society)	Nanci Taylor
Marietta Stephen	Nancy Beauseigle, agente de projet (Pour le Centre femmes aux Plurielles)
Mariette DeGagné	Nancy Dingwall
Marilyn Boisvert	Nancy Peckford, Program Director (Feminist Alliance for International Action)
Marilyn White, Director (Rainbow Early Childhood Centre, Summerside, P.E.I.)	Natalia Barzan, childcare provider
Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Professor, Political Science/Women's Studies Chair, Women's Studies, Simon Fraser University	Natalie Crawford, Director (Les Lucioles Inc. Daycare)
Marlene Pater, Creative Child Care	Necole Anderson, Concerned Parent & Parents for Child Care (advocacy group)
Marnie Eves (Organization: Guelph- Wellington Coalition for Social Justice)	Nicki Sayed, Concerned Child
Marnie Goldenberg, Parent	Nicky Byres, Manager of Child Care Services (Society of Richmond Children's Centres)
Marwan Sayed, Concerned Parent	Nicola McLaren (Parent, and treasurer of Hastings Townsite Childcare Society, Vancouver BC)
Mary Tremain, Architect & Parent	
Mary Walters, Grandparent	Nicole Fontaine-Walker, Parent
Maryann Bird, Skyebird Consulting	Nora Spinks, President Work-Life Harmony Enterprises, Researcher/Consultant
Maya Eichler	Noreen Guenter, Odyssey Childcare
Melanie Head, Family Childcare Provider and Parent	Norma Haacke
Michael Goldberg, Vancouver	Norman Finlayson, Literacy Advocate

Olga Alisic (ECCE course)	Rory Magill
Pam Santon, The Family Therapy Centre	Rosa Fula
Panos Grames, Parent	Rosanne Sallafranque
Paul Moist, National President, CUPE	Rosemary Heenan (grandmother and Early Childhood Education Professor at St. Clair College, Windsor)
Peggy Taylor (Parent and Educator)	Rosemary Waldron, Professor of Early Childhood Education (St. Clair College)
Penny Parry (former Child and Youth Advocate for the City of Vancouver)	Roy Pedersen, Retired Teacher/Administrator
Peter Graefe, Department of Political Science, McMaster University	Ruth Dickie, New Brunswick
Peter Pan Day Care	Sanda Rodgers, Shirley Greenberg Professor of Women and the Legal Profession, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa
Phyllis Head, retired Course Director of first Seneca ECE program, mother of 4, grandmother of 6	Sandra Dennis (ECCE student at Holland College)
Pinkey Gill, ECE student	Sandra Ohlemann, Grandma
Playschool Day Care	Sandy Gallant, Early Childhood Educator / Kindergarten Supervisor
Preben Hansen	Sandy King, King's Kastle Day Care Services Ltd.
Professor Donna Lero, Jarislowsky Chair in Families and Work, University of Guelph	Shaheen Sharif
Professor Linda Hill, St. Clair College	Sharon Gregson, Vancouver School Board Trustee
Professor Martha Jackman, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa	Sharon Hsu, Peter Pan Daycare
Rachelle Campbell, Parent and Supervisor, Child Care & Learning Centre (University of Guelph)	Sharon Lagace
Rebecca Moore, Proud Mother who depends on QUALITY child care!!	Sharon Trainor, ECE accelerated program
Rita Cantalini	Shauna Haugen, parent and Early Learning Consultant
Roberto Landi, Parent	Sheila Davidson, Child and Youth Advocate City of Vancouver
Robin Thomas, Early Childhood Educator	Shelagh Day
Robina Chaudhary	Shellie Bird
Ron Blatz (Discovery Children's Centre Inc.)	Sheri Hincks, Parent Advisory Committee (University of Guelph Child Care and Learning Centre)

Sheri Iseler	Suzanne Tigwell, Resources for Exceptional Children
Sheri Kind (parent)	
Sherry Agriesti	Sylvie Tourigny, Superviseure de programme (Services d'intégration pour jeunes enfants, Ottawa)
Sherry Chichenko, Mother Nature's Preschool Inc. (Medicine Hat, AB)	Tami Mackay, Owner (Leaps and Bounds Childcare Centre Inc.)
Shirley Browne, NCWC VP Health Social Development and Youth	Tammie Hyde
Silvina Alves, The Children's Centre, Greenboro Daycare Centre	Tammy Findlay
Sina Romsa, private citizen with no children supporting a national QUAD child care system	Tammy McCormick Ferguson
Sonia A. Chavez, Communications Chair (AECEO-Toronto Branch)	Tanice Jones
Sonja Boon, parent, PhD. Student, taxpayer	Tekla Hendrickson
Stephanie Seaman (20 year Child Care Worker in a non-profit, inclusive, group licensed centre)	Terry Sankey, Haldis Sankey (grandparents)
Sue Blair, single parent	Theresa Burns E.C.E
Sue Colley, Manager, Integration Network Project, Institute of Child Study, OISE/University of Toronto	Todd Rimmington
Sue Narozniak, parent and early childhood education instructor	Tracy Duffy, Coordinator (NL Sexual Assault Crisis & Prevention Centre)
Sue Slater	Tracy Saarikoski, Teddy Bear Daycare
Sue Wolstenholme	Tracy Vaughan, Masters Candidate (Simon Fraser University, Urban Studies)
Susan Ashley, Learning Manager (Early Childhood Care and Education Program Holland College, P.E.I.)	Roy Bendor, Masters Candidate (Simon Fraser University, Communications)
Susan Spence	Twila Warwarick, Parent
Susan Szenes, Parent	University Children's Centre, Nova Scotia
Susan Thompson (parent/NDP candidate)	Valerie Watt, Manitoba Women's Institute
Suzanne Loch – parent (Sr. Account Manager, Watt International)	Vice-President – Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario – Niagara Local
	Wayne Helgason (Executive Director, The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg)
	Wendy Holden (Millennium Kidz N Kare Ltd., Before and After School age Center)
	Wendy Porter, Program Supervisor, Good Beginings Inc. (Woodstock, Ont.)