



***Parents mount opposition to Conservative child care scheme /
Des parents s'organisent pour opposer le plan des
Conservateurs en matière de services de garde***

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Growing concern about the implications of the Conservative child care allowance has prompted parents across Canada to mobilize against a Harper victory in the final week of the election.

Parents are organizing meetings, attending all-candidates meetings, using e-mail and writing letters to the editor to express their opposition to what the Conservative's policy will mean for Canada's families with young children, say representatives from nine provinces and territories. The group came together earlier this week at a Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada gathering.

"Parents in communities across Canada are reeling as they come to understand that the Conservative child care scheme means they will be left to fend for themselves," said Jody Dallaire, parent of two. "Parents want a government that is committed to supporting families with young children by building a program of high quality early learning and child care."

Parents are saying the conservative platform represents a giant step backwards and will not meet their child care needs:

- Their provinces will have to abandon child care expansion plans and cut back on existing services because of a Conservative pledge to halt already-committed funding from Ottawa after one year.
- The \$1,200 child care allowance to parents will not provide choice. Choice will be reduced or eliminated because child care spaces are already at a premium. Instead, waiting lists will only get longer.
- The taxable allowance represents a paltry sum for most low and modest income families struggling with child care costs—about \$1 a day. A wealthy banker's wife who stays at home will get almost the full allowance while the single parent teller will have much of it taxed back.

"The Conservative platform amounts to giving parents a bucket of gravel and telling them to go and build a road. While we understand why Canadians might want to throw the current government out of office, it's nothing less than our children's future that's at stake in this election."