

**CHILD CARE ADVOCACY  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA  
(CCAAC)**



**L'ASSOCIATION  
CANADIENNE POUR LA  
PROMOTION DES SERVICES  
DE GARDE  
À L'ENFANCE  
(ACPSGE)**

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The Right Honourable Jean Chretien  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

September 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Chretien,

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada is a national not for profit organization dedicated to the campaign for quality child care services that are accessible to all. We are an incorporated, non-profit, bilingual Association which has continued to promote quality childcare as an issue of entitlement for women and children. Today, our membership is located in every province and territory in Canada and includes parents, service providers, labour, women's groups, and others committed to social justice initiatives.

Members of our Board of Directors were thrilled to read Wednesday's Globe and Mail, which stated that your Government's Speech from the Throne will promise a renewed effort to combat child poverty with a major infusion of new money in the National Child Benefit, increased federal support for early-childhood programs such as Aboriginal head-start and child care programs, and a financial boost to the federal contribution to the Early Childhood Development Initiative.

We certainly applaud this direction and firmly believe that you, your Government and all Canadians will reap the benefits of federal leadership in how we care about our youngest citizens and their families. As you know, many Canadians are realizing that the Social Union Framework and the Early Childhood Development Initiative (as currently structured) are not meeting the child care needs of children and families of today.

Therefore, we encourage you to make a substantial investment and commit to a 5 year action plan to develop a comprehensive child care system with a new expenditure of at

least \$2 billion in year one, with a further commitment for years 2-5 and with an assurance to maintain the cumulative level of funding after year five. Building a child care system cannot be done in one year, and we hope that part of the legacy you leave to Canadians will be an ongoing commitment to early childhood care and education that extends beyond your current leadership.

Furthermore, we believe that your government must develop targets and timelines and require all provinces/territories to use the designated federal funds for building a comprehensive child care system that entitles all children access to high quality, affordable, regulated child care in their communities. We have seen that without this firm direction, the precious dollars allocated to ECDI have in some provinces not been used as the spirit of the agreement initially intended.

To assure that provincial and territorial governments use the dollars in response to actual community needs, we believe that the ECDI should require provincial/territorial governments to collaborate fully with municipalities and community organizations to plan and implement regionally responsive child care services.

We are eager to hear your Throne Speech on Monday and to seeing the Liberal Government fulfill the hopes and dreams of Canadian parents and child care providers. We anticipate federal leadership and a workable federal framework that provides entitlement for all children in Canada to publicly funded quality child care within a comprehensive range of early childhood services and family policies based on principles of portability, accessibility, sustainability and public accountability.

We would be pleased to meet with you or your staff if we can help in any way in this time of exciting promise. Please contact our Ottawa staff person, Maryann Bird, CCAAC Executive Director at 594-3196 if any consultation is requested.

Sincerely,  
Christine McLean  
Chairperson, CCAAC