

December 5, 2008

Dear leaders of the Bloc Quebecois, Liberal Party and New Democrats,

On behalf of our members, we wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate your political parties for putting differences aside to work on behalf of Canadian children, families and communities in addressing the current economic crisis. It is clear that the current minority government has lost the confidence of Parliament by failing to address the pressing needs of our economy.

As all of your parties have demonstrated support for building a system of universally accessible and affordable quality child care programs, we support your Coalition initiative as the best way to advance progressive child care policy.

We recognize Quebec's leadership role in child care. Outside of Quebec, a strong majority of Canadians view the lack of affordable child care as a serious problem for which government has a role to play in helping parents meet their child care needs.¹

We agree that the focus should be on investing in sustainable economic development in these uncertain times. Investing in child care is part of this solution as highlighted in the Accord signed by your political parties.

Early childhood education and care generates ongoing economic activity in the community. It creates jobs and, since the sector is labour intensive, the majority of child care dollars are spent locally and invested in people. Canadian research calculates that every dollar of child care spending in Manitoba produces a ripple effect of \$1.58 in the local economy. Many US studies have produced similar figures, demonstrating that early childhood education and care is both an economic generator and worthwhile social investment.

We trust that, if a Coalition government is put in place, you will begin the process of investing in the pan-Canadian child care system that parents so desperately need.

Sincerely,



Jody Dallaire, Chairperson Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
Susan Harney, Chairperson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Cheryl Degras and Tracey Saarikowski, Co-Chairs, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
Laudia LeBlanc, New Brunswick Child Care Coalition

¹ Environics polling results are available at:
http://www.buildchildcare.ca/updir/buildchildcare/EnvironicsReport_Attitudes_toward_child_care.pdf