

# Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Working for a non-profit child care system that is  
high quality, affordable, accessible, and accountable

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

Dear Mr. Chretien,

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is an organization of parents, caregivers and child care supporters. On behalf of our organization, I am writing to applaud your comments in the recent speech from the throne, where you recognized the importance of high quality child care in the lives of Canadian families.

As you know, there are far too few licensed, quality child care spaces to meet the needs of Canadians. Because of this, parents are forced to accept poor standards of care in order to meet their obligations at work and school. We also know that early childhood experiences are critical for the early years development of children. Child care programs, whether they are full time or part time, provide our children with invaluable social and learning skills.

Research clearly indicates that while all children benefit from the participation in high quality programs, it is Canadians poorest children that would benefit the most. Child care programs, if properly funded, can provide much needed support to families such as meal programs, early detection of learning disabilities and a safe and secure environment. We believe that child care programs can become “hubs” of family supports in all Canadian communities given federal leadership and the willingness to fund a Canadian Child Care System adequately. Sadly, the very children and families that our programs can best support can not access our programs because of high costs or unavailability of space.

Our organization is able to look forward with enthusiasm and hope given your renewed promise to support early childhood initiatives but we call on your government to designate these funds to the establishment of a high quality, affordable child care system throughout Canada. The need to develop child care as the cornerstone of quality services to children in Canada is critical. We strongly support the recommendations of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada that your government “develop a consistent federal-provincial/territorial agreement on the components, structures, target and timelines for a child care system that ensure that all of Canada’s children, regardless of their families income level, geographical location, or employment status have access to a range of regulated, high quality, affordable, non-profit, financially sustainable child care programs in their communities.”

The children of Canada are counting on you Prime Minister. Don’t let them down.

Sincerely

Susan Harney  
Chairperson, CCCABC