



**Declaration for a Child Care System in Canada
Presented to the
United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child**

Whereas federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada have affirmed their commitments to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, both of which recognize that parents have primary responsibility for their children and that government's role is to ensure that families have the support necessary to carry out their responsibilities, including child care,

And

Whereas a compelling body of research shows that universal access to quality, affordable, inclusive and not-for-profit child care supports children's healthy development, advances women's equality, promotes work/life balance for parents, reduces crime, prevents violence against women, addresses child and family poverty, deepens social inclusion and grows the economy,

And

Whereas multiple international assessments rank Canada poorly among developed countries because child care, particularly outside of Quebec, is neither accessible nor affordable for most families,

And

Whereas low wages in Canada's child care sector have led to a crisis in recruiting and retaining the well-trained, socially-valued staff that are essential to promoting equality for women and quality in child care programs,

And

Whereas the lack of access to quality, affordable child care programs in Canada today places our children's healthy development at risk and increases stress on families,

We, the undersigned,

Call on the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to fulfill their human rights commitments with regard to child care.

Declaration sponsored by:

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C.

And endorsed by the following supporters of the child care advocacy movement in Canada (in alphabetical order):

Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario

B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union

Bee Hive Child Care Center

Campaign 2000

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Association of University Teachers

Canadian Child Care Federation

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

Canadian Labour Congress

Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Canadian Union of Postal Workers Kingston Local 556

Canadian Union of Postal Workers Newmarket Local 573

Canadian Union of Public Employees

Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2204

Canadian Union of Public Employees Manitoba

Canadian Union of Public Employees Saskatchewan

Capital Day Care Centre

Centretown Parents' Cooperative Daycare

Child Care Coalition of Manitoba

Childcare Resource and Research Unit

Community Coalition to End Poverty - Nova Scotia

Dalhousie Parents' Day Care Centre

Drayton Valley Early Childhood Development Centre

Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia

Early Learning Centre, Family Programs and Services, University of Toronto

Early Learning Childcare Coalition of Saskatchewan

Edmonton and District Labour Council

Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec

Feminist Alliance for International Action

First Call: BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition

Garneau/University Early Learning Centre

Glebe Parents' Day Care

Global Child Care Services

Greenfield School Age Day Care Association

Homes First Foundation

Jean Crowder, MP Nanaimo-Cowichan, NDP Critic for Aboriginal Affairs

Kid's Ark Day Nursery

Kids Connection Care and Education

Lethbridge Montessori School

Manitoba Child Care Association

McGregor Child Care Society

Medicine Hat & District Child Care Association

National Alliance for Children & Youth

National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)

Near to Me Day Care

Nechako Valley Community Services Society

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Ottawa Federation of Parents' Day Care Centres

Overbrook Day Care, Kindergarten & School-Age Program

Parkgate Community Services Society

Parkview Children's Centre

Poverty & Human Rights Centre

Provincial Council of Women of British Columbia

Public Health Association of BC

Public Interest Alberta

Public Service Alliance of Canada

Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit

Seedlings Preschool

Society for Children and Youth of BC

Specialink: The National Centre for Early Childhood Inclusion

Stepping Stones Day Care Society

Sunflower Day Nursery

Teddy Bear Day Care

UBC Child Care Services (University of British Columbia)

UBC Daycare Parent Council

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Childcare Centre (USSU Childcare)

VANIER Cooperative School Age Program

Wellington Ward (Ottawa) Child Care

Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre

YWCA Canada

YWCA Cambridge

YWCA Kitchener Waterloo