The following statement is signed by a cross-section of organizations and individuals who believe that we all have a stake in helping parents raise the next generation of Canadians.

Children and Families Deserve More than Empty Conservative Promises

As the federal election draws near, Canadians concerned about the country’s future should closely examine the Conservative child care promises. These promises are a throwback to the past. They will not deliver the kind of high quality child care our children deserve nor the support today’s parents need. Instead, a Stephen Harper government would erase the progress we have finally begun to make towards building a system of accessible care for children across Canada.

The Conservatives say they would create 125,000 child care spaces through a $10,000 tax credit to employers.

Past experience with this trickle-down approach has been dismal. Mike Harris’s government used the same scheme—a tax incentive to employers for workplace child care—and no new spaces were created. Saskatchewan and New Brunswick had similar programs with poor results. In any case, most workplace child care in Canada is associated with public sector employers who can’t take advantage of tax credits.

The Conservatives’ math is also questionable. Capital and start-up costs for developing a child care space are considerably more than a $10,000 tax credit, especially in big cities. For example, in Vancouver, the cost would be closer to $40,000 because of the high cost of land and construction.

And what about the cost of operating affordable spaces once they’re created? Employers have shown they’re not willing to fund the ongoing cost of workplace child care and that leaves parents and provincial governments on the hook.

Stephen Harper says he’ll tear up child care funding agreements with the provinces.

The Conservatives would take back billions of already-committed child care funding that the provinces are counting on. The provinces are responsible for child care and would have to abandon their plans to use these dollars for much-needed expansion and quality improvements, with devastating results. For example, Manitoba would have to cancel plans for 3,000 new community-based child care spaces and 200 nursery school places would no longer be feasible. Toronto would not get its planned 5,000 new subsidies to help low- and modest-income parents pay for child care and would not be able to build 58 new planned centres. Saskatchewan would have to cancel an announced wage increase for child care staff. And the plans of other provinces would meet a similar fate.
No worries, the Conservatives will give families $25 a week.

The proposed allowance would be taxed back from all families except those with one parent at home, so $25 represents a maximum. This cash would not help parents find high quality child care—you can’t buy what doesn’t exist. Even existing child care (only enough for 15% of young children) costs 10 or 20 times the $3 or $4 a day the allowance would provide. While many families do need income support, families with young children very much need and want a range of quality, affordable child care services. An increase in public investment in high quality child care and—at the same time—an increase in the existing National Child Benefit would make much more sense for today’s families.

Say no to the Conservative child care scheme
Solving Canada’s child care crisis will take a lot more than sound bites, simplistic ideas and discredited theories. Canada needs a plan and a program that recognizes the social and economic benefits that good early learning and child care produces for children, families and all of society. Most successful industrialized nations recognize the benefits of public investment in high quality child care and already have universal programs. Canada, its children and their families deserve one too.

We won’t get it with the Conservative plan.

For more information:
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The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada was founded in 1983 to promote quality, inclusive, publicly funded, non-profit child care accessible to all. The association’s more than 140,000 members include parents, caregivers, researchers and students; and women’s, anti-poverty, labour, social justice, disability and rural organizations.

This statement is endorsed by the following organizations and individuals:

- Action Canada for Population and Development
- Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario
- BC Government and Service Employees’ Union
- Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)
- Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions
- Canadian Federation of Students
- Canadian Feed The Children, Toronto
- Canadian Labour Congress
- Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW) / Institut Canadien de recherches sur les femmes (ICREF)
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
- Child Care Coalition of Manitoba
- Child Care Council of Ottawa
Childcare Resource and Research Unit, University of Toronto
Centre for Social Justice
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union of Canada
Community Social Planning Council of Toronto
CUPE Local 2204 Child Care Workers of Eastern Ontario
CUPE Local 2484 Child Care Workers
CUPE National Child Care Working Group
Early Childhood Educators of BC
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Feminist Alliance for International Action
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition
Hospital Employees Union
Integration Network Project, Institute of Child Study, OISE/University of Toronto
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Islamic Social Services and Resources Association
Low Income Families Together (LIFT) Resource and Education centre
Manitoba Federation of Labour
Manitoba Government and General Employees Union
Medical Reform Group
Middle Years Matter Coalition
National Anti-Poverty Organization
National Association of Women and the Law
National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)
Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Ontario Women's Health Network
Ottawa Child Care Association
Parents for Quality Care, New Brunswick
Poverty and Human Rights Centre
Public Interest Alberta
Public Service Alliance of Canada, Ontario
Rural Voices
Saskatchewan Early Learning Child Care Coalition
Somali Family & Child Skills Development Services
Saskatoon Communities for Children
SpeciaLink, The National Inclusion Network
Success by Six, Saskatoon
Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care
Waterloo Regional Labour Council
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
West Kootenay Certified Dental Assistants Society
Yukon Child Care Association
YWCA Canada
INDIVIDUALS

Alex Lisman, Taxpayer and Voter

Alice Winsby

Alisha Clory, ECCE student

Amanda Mayer, future Parent

Amber Fenton

Amy Robinson, Principal, Amy Robinson Consulting (and parent!)

Andrea Taurasi-Wood (Parent/E.C.E)

Angela Blanchard, Mother of 2 preschoolers in a Licensed Day Care

Anita Zaenker, future parent

Ann Robertson, Executive Director (CHANCES Family Centre)

Ann Silberman, Bowen Island, B.C.

Anne Ricard

April Boutin

April Kalyniuk

Arlene Giddings (Certified ECCE and Owner/operator of a home daycare)

Barb Keller

Barbara Ledwell Watton

Barbara Wood, parent

Barry Forer, Human Early Learning Partnership, UBC

Bernadette Walsh

Beryle M. Jones

Betty Bannon (National President UTE)

Betty Kelly, Researcher & Author

Beverley Arnason

Beverly-Ann de Sousa, St. Christopher House

Bill Moore-Kilgannon, Public Interest Alberta

Board of Directors, Dalhousie Parents’ Day Care Centre

Bonnie Fox, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto

Bonnie Moore (Early Childhood Education accelerated program)

Bozica Costigliola

Brenda Goodine (Concerned citizen- Future Grandparent)

Brenda Kelley, Community Development Coordinator, Bathurst Sustainable Development (BSD)

Brenda Morse, Coordinator of Emergency Childcare and Family Resource Program (Scadding Court Community Centre)

Brenda Shillington

Bryan Burt, Parent

Canadian Women's Heath Network

Candice Gosling

Cape Breton Non-Profit Directors Association.

Carla Kosak, President, National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)

Carol Gott, Owner/Operator

Carol Pauker and Bryan Marrion (2 children in Ferncliff Daycare, Toronto)

Carol Wood, Vancouver Parent
Caroline Kent, Early Childhood Educator
Catharine Tillsley, NCWC, Executive Administrator
Catherine Welsh (Mother and Grandma)
Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
Charlyn Monahan, ECE
Cheryl Scribner, Parent, Community Living - South Muskoka
Children’s World Daycare Society, Pincher Creek, AB
Chrissie Handrahan, Parent/Early childhood educator
Christine Treganowan, VP, Board of Directors (Dalhousie Parents’ Day Care Centre, Ottawa, Ont.)
Cindy Fenton
Colin Oloman
Colleen Bell
Connie Beninger
Coralee Livingston - Early Childhood Care Education Accelerated (Holland College, P.E.I.)
Cynthia Dempsey
Cynthia Magloughlin, President, Ottawa Federation of Parents’ Day Care Centres
Daryl Hoelke, Executive Assistant, Union of Environment Workers (UEW)
Dave Ritchie
Deb Bray, Collections Enforcement Officer (grandparent concerned about child care, especially the Conservatives position.)
DeeAnne Feltham-Scott, Parent

Delphi Health and Leisure Centre
Diane McKean (Adventurers School Age Care LTD., Calgary Alta)
Diane Thorne, M.L.A., Coquitlam-Maillardville, B.C. (N.D.P. Childcare Critic)
Dianne Goldberg
Donna Mooney, The Children's Centre
Donna Riddell, Parent
Doreen Baird, Early Childhood Educator
Dorothy Commandeur, Executive Director (Greenfield School Age Day Care Association)
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Dr. Gordon Cleveland, Department of Management, University of Toronto
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Dr. Kathryn McNaughton, Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Teacher Educator
Dr. Michael Walsh
Dr. Pam Whitty, Professor, Early Literacies and Critical Studies, University of New Brunswick
Dr. Paul Kershaw, Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of British Columbia, Director of the Social Care and Social Citizenship Research Network and Co-Director of the Early Learning and Care Research Unit at the Human Early Learning Partnership

Dr. Susan Prentice, Professor, University of Manitoba

Edith Whetstone, grandparent and retired E.C.E

Eileen Rose

Elda Allen, Senior citizen (honorary board member Charlotte Birchard Centres of Early Learning)

Eleonore Benesch

Elizabeth J. Taylor, Volunteer English Tutor

Elizabeth Rivas, Executive Director A.C.E. Child Development Center (Calgary)

Elizabeth Wall, ECE student

Ellie McEvoy (Northalta Family Daycare)

Ernie Lightman, Professor, U of Toronto

Esther Seaman, ECE and parent (Kanata Research Park Family Centre)

Eve-Anne Tremblay, Early Childhood Educator

Francesco Misuraca, (Parent and Canadian Citizen)

Gay Pagan

George Buckley (Retired Secondary School Principal, parent and grandparent)

Gerald M Macdonald (parent)

Gillian Doherty, Ph.D. Child care researcher and consultant

Gladys James

Hazel White, ECE. (Charlottetown P.E.I.)

Heather Kelley

Ileana Strelkov (Parent at Students' Union and Community DayCare U of Alberta)

Innisfail Family Day Home Society

James L. Turk (Executive Director, Canadian Association of University Teachers)

Jamie S. MacDougall, Parent (Father)

Jane Beach, Child care research and policy consultant

Jane van Berkel, parent

Jane Wilson

Jason, Jacqueline & baby Stewart Copland (A concerned family)

Jean Guthrie, Coordinator (Women's Studies Program, Memorial University)

Jean Paul Leclerc, Parent

Jenelle Penner

Jennifer Kasaboski, Educational Assistant (Renfrew County Catholic and Public District S.B)

Jennifer Walters, ECE student

Jenny Robinson

Jessie McDonald

Jilliann Mudaliar, Executive Director (Richard Secord Out Of School Care Society)

Joan-Ann Gravesande

Jo-Ann D'Sylva, Teacher Central Commerce Collegiate

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Jocelyne Desbiens
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Joyce McMann, Campbell River Child Care Society
Joyce Noble (Bayfair Daycare of Pickering Ontario)
Judy Callahan - Director, Child Care and Learning Centre/Adjunct Professor (University of Guelph)
Julia Darling (Glenora After School Care)
Julie Wong (graduating McGill law student)
Karen Carroll
Kate Carradine
Katie Deering
Kelly Thompson, Parent
Kerry Duggan, Parent/Family Support Worker
Khirsta McDowall (Dragons and Butterflies Preschool)
Kids Cottage Daycare Society (Chair of the Board)
Kim Fenton
Kim Gillis, Learning Manager (Early Childhood Care and Education Program College, P.E.I.)
Kim Hiscott, ECE.C
Kim Rudd, Community Advocate
Kim Rygiel, Parent and Doctoral candidate (Department of Political Science York University)
Kim Watts, Child Development Centre
Kimberly Earles (PhD Candidate, Political Science)
Kira Heineck
Kristi Horbasenko, concerned Parent
Kristy Arsenault (COWS Inc – Buyer)
Lana-Lee Hardacre, Conestoga College/parent
Lesley Inglis, parent
Liliana Sulikowska-Klebek
Linda Burrows, Executive Administrator (Sunshine Valley Child Care Society)
Lisa Paquet - Early Childhood Program (Holland College, P.E.I.)
Lisa Power, Parent
Lisa Stewart, Early Childhood Educator (St. Joseph's Early Childhood Centres)
Lise Gratton
Liz Simmons, Child Care Consultant
Lorene Rose (Safehaven Dayhomes and ICC agency LTD)
Lorraine Sheehan, Executive Director, Bay St. GeorgeStatus of Women's Council
Lorraine Yeo, Parent of three children and Early Childhood Education student
Louise Heck, Program Coordinator (Boundary Child Care Resource & Referral)
Louise Sheppard
Luiza Monteiro, Parent
Lynell Anderson
Lynette Roy
Lynne Raskin (Executive Director, South Riverdale CHC)
Mab Oloman
Madeleine Funk (parent)
Maggie Fryklund
Mani Mirany
Marg Pearson, Teddy Bear Daycare (Sechelt, B.C.)
Margaret Milks, Children's Centre
Margot Young, parent and Associate Professor of Law, UBC
Marian T Hardy, ECE (Executive Director, Cariboo Child Care Society)
Marietta Stephen
Mariette DeGagné
Marilyn Boisvert
Marilyn White, Director (Rainbow Early Childhood Centre, Summerside, P.E.I.)
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Marlene Pater, Creative Child Care
Marnie Eves (Organization: Guelph-Wellington Coalition for Social Justice)
Marnie Goldenberg, Parent
Marwan Sayed, Concerned Parent
Mary Tremain, Architect & Parent
Mary Walters, Grandparent
Maryann Bird, Skyebird Consulting
Maya Eichler
Melanie Head, Family Childcare Provider and Parent
Michael Goldberg, Vancouver
Michele Campbell
Michelle Morgan, Taking Our Places Researcher, Bay St. George, Status of Women
Moira D'Aoust, Manager of Children's Integration Support Services in Ottawa
Monique Coupal
Myles Lipton, MD and Ronit Little, Parents
Naila Fehim
Nanci Taylor
Nancy Beauseigle, agente de projet (Pour le Centre femmes aux Plurielles)
Nancy Dingwall
Nancy Peckford, Program Director (Feminist Alliance for International Action)
Natalia Barzan, childcare provider
Natalie Crawford, Director (Les Lucioles Inc. Daycare)
Necole Anderson, Concerned Parent & Parents for Child Care (advocacy group)
Nicki Sayed, Concerned Child
Nicky Byres, Manager of Child Care Services (Society of Richmond Children's Centres)
Nicola McLaren (Parent, and treasurer of Hastings Townsite Childcare Society, Vancouver BC)
Nicole Fontaine-Walker, Parent
Nora Spinks, President Work-Life Harmony Enterprises, Researcher/Consultant
Noreen Guenter, Odyssey Childcare
Norma Haacke
Norman Finlayson, Literacy Advocate
Olga Alisic (ECCE course)                      Rory Magill
Pam Santon, The Family Therapy Centre              Rosa Fula
Panos Grames, Parent                               Rosanne Sallafranque
Paul Moist, National President, CUPE              Rosemary Heenan (grandmother and Early Childhood Education Professor at St. Clair College, Windsor)
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Pinkey Gill, ECE student                               Sandra Ohlemann, Grandma
Playschool Day Care                                      Sandy Gallant, Early Childhood Educator / Kindergarten Supervisor
Preben Hansen                                              Sandy King, King's Kastle Day Care Services Ltd.
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Professor Linda Hill, St. Clair College                 Sharon Gregson, Vancouver School Board Trustee
Professor Martha Jackman, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa                                Sharon Hsu, Peter Pan Daycare
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Rebecca Moore, Proud Mother who depends on QUALITY child care!!                                 Sharon Trainor, ECE accelerated program
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Robina Chaudhary                                        Shellie Bird
Ron Blatz (Discovery Children's Centre Inc.)               Sheri Hineks, Parent Advisory Committee (University of Guelph Child Care and Learning Centre)
Sheri Iseler
Sheri Kind (parent)
Sherry Agriesti
Sherry Chichenko, Mother Nature's Preschool Inc. (Medicine Hat, AB)
Shirley Browne, NCWC VP Health Social Development and Youth
Silvina Alves, The Children's Centre, Greenboro Daycare Centre
Sina Romsa, private citizen with no children supporting a national QUAD child care system
Sonia A. Chavez, Communications Chair (AECEO-Toronto Branch)
Sonja Boon, parent, PhD. Student, taxpayer
Stephanie Seaman (20 year Child Care Worker in a non-profit, inclusive, group licensed centre)
Sue Blair, single parent
Sue Colley, Manager, Integration Network Project, Institute of Child Study, OISE/University of Toronto
Sue Narozniak, parent and early childhood education instructor
Sue Slater
Sue Wolstenholme
Susan Ashley, Learning Manager (Early Childhood Care and Education Program Holland College, P.E.I.)
Susan Spence
Susan Szenes, Parent
Susan Thompson (parent/NDP candidate)
Suzanne Loch – parent (Sr. Account Manager, Watt International)

Suzanne Tigwell, Resources for Exceptional Children
Sylvie Tourigny, Superviseure de programme (Services d’intégration pour jeunes enfants, Ottawa)
Tami Mackay, Owner (Leaps and Bounds Childcare Centre Inc.)
Tammie Hyde
Tammy Findlay
Tammy McCormick Ferguson
Tanice Jones
Tekla Hendrickson
Terry Sankey, Haldis Sankey (grandparents)
Theresa Burns E.C.E
Todd Rimmington
Tracy Duffy, Coordinator (NL Sexual Assault Crisis & Prevention Centre)
Tracy Saarikoski, Teddy Bear Daycare
Tracy Vaughan, Masters Candidate (Simon Fraser University, Urban Studies)
Roy Bendor, Masters Candidate (Simon Fraser University, Communications)
Twila Warwarick, Parent
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Valerie Watt, Manitoba Women's Institute
Vice-President – Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario – Niagara Local
Wayne Helgason (Executive Director, The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg)
Wendy Holden (Millennium Kidz N Kare Ltd., Before and After School age Center)
Wendy Porter, Program Supervisor, Good Beginnings Inc. (Woodstock, Ont.)