

March 8

International Women's Day

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Child care is a fundamental cornerstone of women's equality. On this International Women's Day we can be proud of our union's work on the front lines with child care advocates, fighting for a cross-Canada child care system.

CUPE has been a strong voice in the ongoing struggle for universal, high-quality child care – especially over the past six months, as talks intensified with federal, provincial and territorial governments. Our concerns about quality, for-profit care and accountability are having an impact. But we still have much work to do.

The federal Liberals are not off the hook when it comes to their long-standing and often-broken child care promise. The recent federal budget includes \$5 billion over five years for child care. But that won't do much to help CUPE parents and other working families. The funding isn't enough in the first few years, and there is no commitment to the sustained and increased funding.

To make matters worse, there are no conditions on provinces to use the funds only for non-profit care, nor are there any other standards or requirements attached to the money. This no-strings-attached approach is unacceptable. We must continue to push hard for true accountability in the new system, including a dedicated transfer for child care, legislation and a commitment to fund only non-profit delivery.

Recent ministerial talks over child care funding broke down. That gives us an opportunity to ensure that child care is built on the best possible foundation. No deal is better than the bad, watered-down deal that could have been signed in Vancouver.

On March 8, we urge you to pressure governments to build public, non-profit child care that delivers the care Canada's kids need. Join the call for high-quality, universal, accessible, inclusive care and developmental programming.

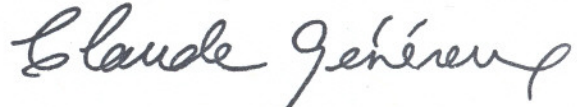
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Please visit www.buildchildcare.ca today and send a message to federal Social Development Minister Ken Dryden and other child care ministers. Let's build our child care system right...from the start!

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer

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