



ONE ELECTION AWAY...

FROM AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE PARENTS CAN TRUST

Families deserve quality, affordable child care they can rely on. Yet too many families pay more for their monthly child care than they do for housing – up to \$2,000 a month.

In Ontario, families can pay between \$40 and \$60 a day for care. In big cities, the cost is even higher.

Too often, women have to miss work or give up good jobs because they cannot find reliable child care.

After 10 years of the Conservatives the cost of child care is often breaking the family budget. It's time to rethink child care.

We need a federal child care plan that is affordable, will help families and allow more women to join the workforce and boost our economy.

The Conservatives' record

The Conservatives' plan for child care won't help most families. The Conservatives:

- » Have refused to implement a national child care program even though 70 per cent of mothers with children under five are working.
- » Promised to create 125,000 child care spaces and have created zero.
- » Introduced a \$2,000-per-year family tax credit for high-income families that will benefit just 10 per cent of families. Under the Conservatives income-splitting scheme, most families won't see a dime.

The Liberals' promises

The Liberals promised affordable child care for 13 years, but never delivered. The Liberals:

- » Say they will ensure high quality child care for everyone – but have no plan on how they will deliver more affordable, accessible child care spaces.
- » Have promised to replace the ineffective Conservatives' tax credits with their own tax break for high-income families.

The NDP's commitment

The NDP has a plan to create one million affordable child care spaces to make sure there is space for every child. The NDP:

- » Has a plan to ensure there's a space for every child – and parents won't pay more than \$15 a day.
- » Will invest \$1.9 billion over the first four years to create 370,000 new child care spaces.
- » Understands that affordable child care will lead to more women in the workforce and boost our economy.

Why a national child care plan?

A national child care plan will ensure affordable child care. Quality, affordable child care enables parents to get the education and training they need to get good jobs. It's time our federal government fully recognizes that investing in quality child care, and early learning, will increase employment, reduce poverty, and stimulate the economy for all Canadians.

Today young families are squeezed on all sides, with mothers and fathers forced to work harder and longer than their parents. Child care workers and early childhood educators know firsthand the difference that quality child care makes in the lives of children and their families. Parents can better balance work and family if they can be confident that their children are safe, thriving and happy.

\$15 a day will get you one million affordable child care spaces. Child care makes it more possible for low income or sole support parents (who are mostly women) to take advantage of opportunities for advancement. Almost 70 per cent of mothers with children under five are working. There are only enough regulated spaces for about 22.5 per cent of children aged zero to five. It's even harder to find spaces for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, as well as Aboriginal and rural children.

The Quebec model – Research has shown that Quebec's investment in its seven dollar a day child care program has more than paid for itself through mothers' annual income and consumption taxes. Quebec's child care program increased the number of women in the workforce by 3.8 per cent, pumping an additional \$5.2 billion into the Quebec economy and boosting the province's gross domestic product by 1.7 per cent.

Tom Mulcair and his NDP team are the only party committed to a federal child care plan that families can afford.

With Tom Mulcair and his NDP team, we're one election away from affordable child care.