

Labour Day 2007

CAN'T WAIT FOR CHILDCARE

Deliver it now!

Working families have been waiting three decades for a pan-Canadian early learning and child care system. **We can't wait any longer.**

Working parents – especially women – need quality child care. It's a working peoples' issue that touches every union member.

High-quality, universal, non-profit early learning child care is good for parents, children and communities. Despite the evidence, our country has a shameful track record.

Canada is dead last among industrialized countries when it comes to spending on child care. We have a patchwork of services that lacks quality standards, and there aren't enough spaces. Parents face lengthy waiting lists for care they may not be able to afford.

Stephen Harper is ignoring the needs of Canadian parents. Instead of delivering a child care program, he's cancelled federal-provincial child care deals and cut funding by \$1 billion. His "solution" is taxable monthly cheques that don't come close to meeting child care costs.

Cheques aren't child care. Harper and his government must **restore the \$1 billion** and invest more money in building a real system.

Parliament must also **pass Bill C-303**, the New Democratic Party's Early Learning and Child Care Act. The bill lays the foundation for a **high-quality, universal and accountable early learning and child care** system.

C-303 limits expansion of for-profit child care by directing any new federal funds to non-profit delivery, and acknowledges the direct relationship between quality child care and the need to invest in the child care workforce.

Push for child care

Visit www.cupe.ca to tell your Member of Parliament about the urgent need to pass Bill C-303 and invest more money so we can start building the child care system working people need.

Go to www.buildchildcare.ca and add your message to Code Blue for Child Care's visual petition. The messages will be shared with politicians of all levels and stripes, showing them how deeply Canadians care about and need a cross-Canada system of early learning and care.

CUPE / *The child care union*