

# We are moms <sup>[1]</sup>

The plan for the country should start with a National Childcare Plan. An open letter to all candidates of the 44th Federal Election

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## AVAILABILITY

Access online <sup>[2]</sup>

## EXCERPTS

Dear Leaders and Candidates:

We are moms.

We are working moms. We are retired moms. We are grandmoms. We are moms-to-be. We are moms who work at home and moms who work from home.

We are moms who want to go to work.

We are also moms who are out of work.

Covid has affected all parts of the Canadian workforce - but working women more than most. Women were forced to leave the labour force in such numbers that participation dropped to a 30-year low. As Canada recovers, we're in real danger of losing the critical economic contribution of working moms - and that's something that affects all Canadians.

Moms are an essential part of our country's economy. And moms are a critical part of our country's immediate economic recovery. It's simple: Canada won't return to pre-Covid prosperity levels if moms can't go to work. And moms can't go to work without better childcare. Any economic recovery plan is no plan at all unless it includes a childcare plan.

But there aren't enough childcare spots in Canada right now, and the spots we do have cost too much. Canada needs a game-changing national childcare plan - which is more than a tax rebate, and more than lip-service. It's a guaranteed low, national, daily rate - and a commitment to add at least a hundred thousand more quality spaces.

We call on every party and every candidate to commit to accessible and affordable childcare for all.

We would say, 'it's time' but it's been 'time' for a long time.

*Don't mess with moms. Get it done.*

Signed,

Kate Graham, Professor and Author

Armine Yalnizyan, Canadian Economist

Alana Powell, Childcare Advocate

Cindy Blackstock, Child Welfare Advocate

Morna Ballantyne, Childcare Advocate

Melissa Grelo, TV Host

Carolyn Ferns, Childcare Advocate

Genesa Greening, Canadian Business Leader

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Former Premier of Ontario

Farrah Khan, Gender Justice Advocate

Constance Backhouse, Canadian Scholar and Historian

Lorna Marsden Academic, former University President and Former Senator

Sasha Exeter, Creator and Advocate  
Heather Munroe-Blum, Academic and Businesswoman  
Kim Furlong, Business Leader  
Sarah Boesveld, Advocate  
Hon. Margaret McCuaig Boyd, Former MLA and Minister of Energy of Alberta  
Tiffany Gooch, Writer and Political Commentator  
Daphne Gilbert, Professor of Law  
Hon. Sheila Copps, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada  
Penny Collette, Lawyer and human rights advocate  
Jennifer Flanagan, CEO  
Yola Ventresca, Human Rights Lawyer  
Pamela Jeffery, Founder Women's Executive Network  
Sharon Scholberg-Gray, Lawyer and Health Policy Advocate  
Amanda Alvaro, Political Commentator and Entrepreneur  
Jean Yoon, Actor  
Amber MacArthur, TV Personality  
Adrian Macdonald, Member of the advisory board of the Trudeau Centre for Peace, Conflict, and Justice  
Ani Hotoyan-Joly, Hospital Board Member and CPA  
Clare Beckton, Author and Women's Leadership Advocate  
Sangita Patel, TV Host  
Dr. Kate Bezanson, Professor and Assoc. Dean  
Lana Payne, Trade Unionist  
Jodi Heimpel Butts, Board Director and Lawyer  
Bea Bruske, Activist and Worker's Advocate  
Sandra Garossino, Former Crown Prosecutor and Media Commentator  
Reva Seth, Author  
Carly Watters, Literary Agent  
Hannah Sung, Media Veteran and Asper Fellow  
Kathleen Monk, Political Commentator  
Lisa Kirbie, Executive  
Sarah Elder-Chamanara, Feminist and Advocate  
Tara Slone, Canadian Vocalist  
Supriya Dwivedi, Political Commentator  
Christina Smith, Mayor of Westmount  
Hon. Deb Matthews, Former Deputy Premier Ontario  
Katie Reiach, Entrepreneur and TV Host  
Mary Tersigni-Paltrinieri, Executive Director  
Sheena Russell, Entrepreneur  
Susan Holt, Chief Growth Officer  
Brittney Kerr, Executive  
Lynne Oreck-Werner, Former Foundation Head  
Donna Haynal, Grandmother and philanthropist

Hon. Nathalie Des Rosiers, Lawyer and former MLA of Ontario

Lindsay Tedds, Professor of Economics

Let your voice be heard, make your vote count and sign on before election day, September 20, 2021.

**Related link:** 'Don't mess with moms. Get it done': 50 prominent Canadian women urge party leaders to prioritize child care [3]

**Region:** Canada [4]

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