

# Mixed reviews for child care cash [CA] <sup>[1]</sup>

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**Source:** Portage La Prairie

**Format:** Article

**Publication Date:** 24 Jul 2006

## AVAILABILITY

See text below.

## EXCERPTS

The federal Conservative government's new Universal Child Care Benefit has not met with universal approval in Portage la Prairie.

"I don't think it's a good deal," said Heather Leeman, program co-ordinator at Portage's Young Parent's Resource Centre (YPRC). "It's not possible to get quality child care on \$100 a month."

Under the new plan, which goes into action this month, families with children under the age of six will receive \$100 per child, per month for child care.

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Leeman said many parents who use the resource centre share her sentiment and know first-hand \$100 is an inadequate amount.

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Since the child-care money is considered taxable income and may be affected by other circumstances the recipient is in, Leeman said the actual amount a family receives could be as low as \$20.

April Krastel, executive director at Portage Day Care Centre Inc., pointed out a second problem with the child-care credit's taxable status.

Since the money is considered taxable income, some parents may be pushed into a higher tax bracket, making them ineligible for child-care subsidy programs. In that case, parents would actually end up paying more for child care than if they had never received Stephen Harper's benefit in the first place.

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However, some parents are looking forward to receiving the extra money.

Portager Giselle Pichette, a single mom with a two-year-old son, believes the benefit is a good idea, especially after her day-care costs recently increased.

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Portage-Lisgar Conservative MP Brian Pallister also believes the taxable benefit will have a positive impact on families.

"Constituents have expressed significant support for this initiative and want to see increased flexibility for families when making child-care decisions," he said.

- reprinted from the Portage La Prairie

**Region:** Canada <sup>[2]</sup>

**Tags:** accessibility <sup>[3]</sup>

family resource programs <sup>[4]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/06/07/mixed-reviews-child-care-cash-ca>

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