

Layton warns PM not to scrap day care plan [CA] ^[1]

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EXCERPTS

NDP Leader Jack Layton has spelled out his priorities for the coming session of Parliament, paving the way for a clash of child-care agendas that could topple Prime Minister Stephen Harper's fledgling minority government.

Even so, Layton adopted a conciliatory tone Thursday after a meeting with Harper to outline what New Democrats want to see in the April 4 throne speech: promises to increase day-care spaces, protect the public health-care system, reduce pollution and reform the electoral system.

...

"Mr. Harper seems to be willing to at least consider the ideas that we presented," Layton said. "Let's see where it goes."

Still, Layton signalled that child care could be a make-or-break issue.

Harper has vowed to scrap the previous Liberal government's agreements with the provinces to expand child-care spaces, a plan worth \$5 billion over five years.

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The NDP wants the Liberal plan retained.

...

The prime minister maintains he will stick with five key priorities: a federal accountability act, a GST cut, the child-care allowance, tougher criminal sentences and a patient waiting-times guarantee.

- reprinted from the Canadian Press

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