

No Liberal child care deal, says Flaherty [CA] ^[1]

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EXCERPTS

Despite recent pressure from provincial premiers and opposition MPs, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty flatly ruled out Sunday the possibility the Conservatives will honour the Liberals' national child-care program for five years.

...

Flaherty said the Tories will be able to move ahead this spring with the party's major priorities, such as a child-care allowance and reducing the GST by one percentage point, while maintaining a balanced budget.

...

It's a decision that will create myriad problems for Canadian parents who will suffer due to a lack of child-care spaces, says the [Monica Lysack of the] Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada.

...

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and Quebec Premier Jean Charest have been vocal about the fact they want the Tories to honour the agreement until the end.

...

Charest met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper late last week and said he was optimistic some kind of resolution would be reached.

...

No matter what, Lysack said, the Tories will do serious damage to federal-provincial relations if they push forward with plans to cancel the five-year child-care agreement.

"This creates a lot of problems," she said.

- reprinted from CanWest News Service

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