Layton visits SFU daycare to pledge support for families [CA] [1]

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EXCERPTS

New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton visited a daycare centre at Simon Fraser University Monday during his third visit in British Columbia since the election campaign began May 23.

"We're here today at this daycare centre because I want to talk about who can do the best job for children and families in Canada," Layton declared.

"Canadians have told us that middle class and working class families deserve a break. Today, I'm setting out a practical and responsible plan for making ends meet."

Layton said the NDP would help children and families by:

- Creating an additional 200,000 "high quality, publicly-funded, affordable" child care spaces within four years, "at dramatically lower costs" for parents.

- Increasing the child tax benefit to $4,900 from $2,600 per child.

- Ensuring that all Canadians who make less than $15,000 a year don't pay any income tax.

- Full indexing of tax brackets and credits, so Canadians don't receive hidden tax increases as wages rise, and removing the GST from family essentials such as children's clothing and medicine.

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