

Funding our childcare crisis ^[1]

Letter to the Editor re: Politicians drop the daycare ball

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See text below

Text of letter:

Your editorial accurately portrays the Ontario government's "penny-wise, pound foolish" treatment of the province's childcare crisis. But their insistence that the mess is Ottawa's ("We can't step in every time the federal government walks away from their responsibilities") is most inaccurate on two counts.

First, authority over social policies including childcare is clearly provincial -- deemed so under the 1867 Constitution Act. Second, Prime Minister Harper's cancellation of the bilateral funding agreements was so unique politically (not "every time") that Manitoba's Family Services Minister called it "one of the biggest U-turns in modern day social policy."

Yes, in 21st century Canada, an economically savvy federal government that cared about people would provide significant childcare funding to provinces in a national program similar to health care. But until then, if the Ontario government evades its responsibilities, children, families and the economy will bear the brunt.

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Region: Ontario ^[2]

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