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THRONE SPEECH SETS A BOLD COURSE FOR CHILDCARE

Childcare advocates celebrate the Trudeau government's pledge to build a system of high-quality early learning and childcare as a central pillar to economic recovery

OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020– Today's Throne Speech shows that the federal government is committed to building the robust system of early learning and childcare that Canadian families so badly need and on which a fair economic recovery depends.

"The federal government is responding to the loud chorus of voices across Canada demanding immediate and long-term measures to address the extreme shortage of affordable licenced childcare for children 12 and younger," said Morna Ballantyne, Executive Director of Child Care Now, Canada's national childcare advocacy organization.

"Without an ambitious intervention by the federal government the crisis in childcare will get worse and slam the brakes on recovery because, without reliable access to child care, mothers will keep getting pushed out of the paid labour force, businesses will falter further, and government tax revenues will continue to fall," said Ballantyne.

Childcare advocates said they are eager to continue working with the federal government to fulfil the promise of the Throne Speech and that the first step will be for Parliament to make a big ongoing financial commitment in the next federal budget.

"Building a national universal childcare system is a legacy project that can transform Canada. While it is an idea that has been around a long time, the collapse of child care during the pandemic has convinced many more across the Canadian spectrum that transformation of child care in Canada is essential," said Ballantyne. "We know from ample research, evidence and experience how to do it in a way that puts the wellbeing of children at the centre, helps families prosper, and grows the economy, and we will continue to push the government to start the work without delay because Canada needs more and better child care now."

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