

The Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC)
L'Association Canadienne pour les Jeunes Enfants

Letter of Support for National Early Learning and Child Care System

October 2020

We, the national board of the Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC) are writing to **support the government's promise, as articulated in the recent throne speech, to pledge "significant, long-term, sustained investment to create a Canada-wide early learning and childcare system."** As noted in the throne speech, early learning and child care are issues of social and economic equality for women. The government's recognition that equality for women is inextricably linked to the status of early childhood education in Canada is commendable. In addition, we urge the government to prioritize early learning and child care system as:

A matter of children's rights and an ethical commitment to provide pedagogically rich and culturally responsive education and care for young children. It is a part of the responsibility and ethical obligation of our government to its youngest citizens. Canada is a signatory on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, indicating a commitment to provide quality education and care for all children.

Reflective of current and ongoing research related to the care and education of children, especially in regard to alleviating inequities, contributing to overall well-being of children, their health, education, and development.

A recognition of the importance of the early childhood educator profession through establishing adequate educational preparation and compensation for early childhood educators and child care professionals.

The government's duty to consult with Indigenous peoples as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Indigenous Early Learning Child Care Framework (IELCCF).

The Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC) is a national, not-for-profit organization established in 1974, dedicated to the well-being, care, and education of children ages birth to nine. Since its inception, the CAYC has provided a cross-Canadian platform for dialogue about early childhood issues, practices, and research among diverse stakeholders, including early childhood educators, teachers, early years professionals, researchers, and policy makers. The CAYC's *Journal of Childhood Studies* (<https://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/jcs/index>) and the CAYC's provincial and national conferences are dedicated to explore current research-informed

understandings of early childhood education and care, which can shape and inform provincial and national early childhood policies and practices.

As a pan-Canadian organization committed to the education and care of young children, **we support the development of a publicly funded national early learning and child care system** and urge our governments (locally, provincially and nationally) to work together with experts, researchers, educators and local community members to develop and fund this system immediately.

We thank you for your commitment to Canada's children and would be happy to provide more information or respond to questions you may have. We look forward to seeing the government's promise enacted, demonstrating their commitment to the education and care of Canada's youngest citizens.

The CAYC National Board is comprised of the following volunteer directors:

Randa Khattar
President
28 Ballyronan Road, Toronto, ON. M3B 1V3

Becky Kelley
Past President
103- 9741 110 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5K 2V8

Angela Woodburn
Secretary
35407 Grand Bend Road, RR8, Parkhill ON. N0M 2K0

Brenda Goodine
Treasurer
5 Keegano NW., Edmonton, AB. T6K OR3

Iris Berger
Publications Chair
3700 Quebec Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 3K4

Melanie Janzen
Conference Chair
50 Scotia Street, Winnipeg, MB. R2W 3W8

Kathleen Kummen
British Columbia Director
16 –2150 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, BC. V7V 1K3

Kate Swales
Yukon, North West Territories, Nunavut Director
Box 21039, Whitehorse, YT. Y1A 6P6

Lynda Gelner
Saskatchewan Director
1316 Smishek Drive N., Regina, SK. S4X 4M3

Peggie Olson
Saskatchewan Director
354 N. Pickard Way, Regina, SK. S4R 1B6

Melissa Rosevear
Manitoba Director

Beth McCormack
New Brunswick Director

Christine McLean
Nova Scotia Director
274 Glen Arbour Way, Hammonds Plains, NS. B4B 1T6

Gabriela Arias de Sanchez
Prince Edward Island Director
115 MacKinley Crescent, Cornwall, PEI. C0A 1H8

Jennifer Brown
Newfoundland and Labrador Director
88A Portugal Cove Road, St. John's, NL. A1B 2M7