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 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.

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