



Canadian Labour Congress

Congrès du travail du Canada

Build Child Care

Federal, provincial and territorial politicians are meeting behind closed doors on February 11 in Vancouver to work out some of the details on a pan-Canadian child care system. We need to make sure they build the best possible system and that our elected officials in Parliament have an opportunity to democratically shape and debate it.

What can you do?

1. **Go to www.buildchildcare.ca today.**
2. **From www.buildchildcare.ca** send a personalized message to your Member of Parliament, to Federal Minister Ken Dryden and to your Provincial Minister responsible for child care.

Then please email an electronic postcard to your friends, family and work colleagues telling them about this campaign.

As the ministers lay the foundation of a cross-Canada child care system, there are four key points it's important to get right.

- ✓ Publicly funded, sustainable system with low parent fees;
- ✓ A Child Care Act that guarantees standards and key principles;
- ✓ Public accountability;
- ✓ Money for children, not profits.

The sooner the politicians hear from you, the better. Your message will go to Minister Dryden, the minister responsible for child care in your province, your Member of Parliament, and other decision makers.

Send your letter today, and spread the word far and wide. Together, we can build child care right - from the start.

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Canadian Labour Congress

2841 Riverside Drive • Ottawa ON K1V 8X7 • phone: 613.521.3400 • fax: 613.521.3959

www.clc-ctc.ca



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Send the building blocks for child care to Ottawa and your child care minister!

On February 11th, in Vancouver, federal, provincial and territorial ministers will meet to forge a deal for a national child care system. Parents and child care communities from coast to coast to coast urge our governments to get the building blocks of the new system right from the start:



A publicly funded, sustainable system for quality child care parents can count on and afford. Government provides most of the funding directly to programs, giving them a stable operating base. In Quebec, for example, parents pay a maximum \$7 a day and government pays the rest.



A Child Care Act that guarantees standards and the principles of quality, universality, accessibility, developmental programming and inclusiveness.



Public accountability tied to provincial and territorial five-year plans that contain goals, timelines and targets, and a way to measure real progress in developing comprehensive family- and centre-based child care services.



Money for children, so that in the future every public dollar goes directly into services. Services should be expanded in the non-profit sector, with a transition plan developed for existing commercial centres.

These building blocks are tested and solid. They come out of 30 years of collective experience, research and practice in early learning and care—in Quebec, Canada and around the world. We continue to respect Quebec's right to develop its own program.

Ken Dryden, the federal minister responsible for child care, and his provincial and territorial counterparts need to know that Canadians want an early learning and care system based on this strong foundation.

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Here's what you can do:

- Mail a building block to Ken Dryden, MP, Minister of Social Development, House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. Mail another one to your province or territory's minister responsible for child care. Include a note for each minister (or use the note below) on the essential building blocks for child care. Tell the ministers you expect them to bring the blocks to their January meeting, and build a pan-Canadian child care system!
- Get your friends, colleagues and neighbours to send blocks too.
- Take the campaign to your child care centre. Collect building blocks and notes from parents and centre staff. Get the children to draw blocks of their own. Mail in everything in two big batches: federal and provincial/territorial.

*No building blocks on hand? Just copy the form below and send it in today to Ken Dryden and your provincial/territorial minister responsible for child care. (Note: regular-sized letters to **federal** MPs are postage-free.) You can download this flyer at the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada website: www.childcareadvocacy.ca.*

Dear Minister _____

I urge you to use these blocks to build a strong pan-Canadian child care program at the January federal/provincial/territorial meeting in Ottawa:



A publicly funded, sustainable system



A Child Care Act that guarantees standards and principles



Public accountability tied to concrete provincial and territorial plans



Money for children, not profits

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/Territory: _____

Postal Code: _____

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