

**Jagmeet Singh**

Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada  
Member of Parliament for Burnaby South  
Ottawa, Ontario

October 28, 2019

Dear Mr. Singh,

Canada's child care advocates congratulate you on your re-election as Member of Parliament for Burnaby South and on the New Democratic Party's very successful election campaign. Issues of critical importance to Canadians were debated thanks to you and the other NDP candidates. You and your party set out clear proposals for policy changes to make life better for all who struggle to afford a decent standard of living. We are very grateful.

We are especially thankful to you for spelling out so clearly the way forward to build a proper system of early learning and child care. We write to you now to urge that you follow up on your bold proposals by making them a priority in your discussions with the Prime Minister of Canada about his government's mandate.

In the weeks ahead, the Prime Minister will appoint a Cabinet and develop mandates for each Minister. We have written to Mr. Justin Trudeau urging that he consult with you with respect to early learning and child care and maternity and parental benefits. We have asked that he reflect in his ministerial mandates the proposals made by the NDP during the election campaign.

Specifically, we have asked that he direct:

- A significant increase in federal funding for early learning and child care in the next budget, with annual increases in each subsequent year over the next ten years;
- A plan to work with the provinces, territories, Indigenous communities and the child care sector to expand affordable, inclusive and flexible licensed child care across the country for all age groups;
- A commitment to continue to build on, and fund, the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework that was developed in close cooperation with Indigenous organizations;



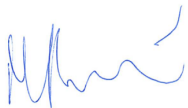
- A commitment to improve the quality of child care in Canada by developing and implementing (with the provinces, territories and Indigenous organizations, and in consultation with national child care organizations) a workforce strategy, including measures to improve the wages and working conditions of those who work in child care;
- The establishment of a national secretariat to work with the Expert Panel on Early Learning and Child Care to lay the groundwork for a universally accessible, pan-Canadian system of child care;
- The introduction of federal child care legislation enshrining the commitment to early learning and child care and setting out principles to guide the building of pan-Canadian child care system;
- A commitment to improve paid maternity and parental leave after consulting with experts, including those in the child care advocacy movement, on the best policy approaches for making paid benefits accessible to parents.

Each of these elements mirror key elements of Child Care Now's [Affordable Child Care for All Plan](#)—now endorsed by thousands of Canadians, and more than [one hundred organizations](#), from the Girl Guides of Canada to the Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Child care advocates, early childhood educators, parents, grandparents, gender and human rights organizations, employers, and myriad of other groups know they can count on you and the NDP for doing everything possible to realize a universal system of high-quality early learning and child care for Canada. As Canada's national child care advocacy organization, we offer you full support and assistance to make your child care platform a reality.

Again, congratulations on your electoral success and we look forward to working with you and your caucus.

Yours truly,



Morna Ballantyne,  
Executive Director  
Child Care Now (formerly the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada)

c.c. Jennifer Howard, Chief of Staff

