

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau P.C., M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

October 28, 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

Canada's child care advocates congratulate you on your re-election as Prime Minister of Canada. Child Care Now, Canada's national child care advocacy organization, looks forward to building on the positive working relationship we established with your government during its first term.

Very soon you will be announcing your new Cabinet and we assume your office has started to work on the mandates for each Minister. We are writing to ask that you consult closely with the NDP and the Green Party of Canada on the government's mandate with respect to early learning and child care, as well as paid maternity and parental leave. Additionally, we urge you give consideration to the evidence-based recommendations for change that we have proposed in our own plan—the [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.

Your government made big strides forward with respect to early learning and child care in your first term, but you also recognized in the election campaign that there is more distance to travel. We were very pleased that the Liberal Party of Canada pledged to work with the provinces and territories to “to ensure that every parent—no matter where they live—has access to quality, affordable childcare” (Platform document). You promised more federal funding for child care, more licensed child care spaces, lower parent fees and you made a commitment to lay the groundwork for broader systemic change through a new national child care secretariat in collaboration with the Expert Panel on Early Learning and Child Care.

It is fortunate that your party's child care platform has a great deal in common with the platforms of the New Democratic Party and the Green Party of Canada. The NDP and the Greens also committed to building a universal system of affordable, inclusive and high-quality early learning and child care over the next ten years. The NDP, like the Liberal Party, said it would work with the provinces and territories to expand the number of child care spaces and make them more affordable. Your party, the NDP and Greens have expressed the need to work with Indigenous representatives to ensure Indigenous children and families have the services they want and need. Also, your party, the NDP and Greens each made important policy announcements with respect to paid maternity and parental leave.

Our organization's own Affordable Child Care for All Plan includes many of the same elements promised by the three parties during the election. **In other words, we all stand on a large swath of common ground.**

Given the above, we look forward to seeing you provide the following direction in your ministerial mandates:

- 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 your government 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.

Thank you for giving our recommendations serious consideration. Again, we recognize the important achievements you and your government made over the last four years and we look forward to many more advances in the months and years ahead.

Yours truly,



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

