



MEDIA RELEASE

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MCCA Applauds Signing of Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework Agreement

The Manitoba Child Care Association (MCCA) applauds the federal and provincial/territorial government representatives for their efforts to enhance early learning and child care systems across the country. The Government of Canada has committed \$400M for provincial/territorial child care systems in 2017/18 and \$7B over 10 years starting in 2018/19. Manitoba's share of the federal investment over the next three years will be around \$15M annually starting in 2017/18.

The shortage of licensed child care spaces continues to escalate in Manitoba, with more than 16,372 children on the online registry as of March 31, 2017. Of those, 1,714 children were added to the online waiting list since December 2016. Manitoba desperately needs more child care spaces, and our government must also plan for the infrastructure, human resource, and administrative needs of the entire child care system.

MCCA is calling on the federal government to ensure the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework is more than words on a paper and a transfer of funds to provinces/territories. We challenge the federal government to provide leadership by identifying a robust vision that is ambitious, aspirational, inspirational, and measurable. The Government of Canada should use the best available research to identify the core principals and goals that will guide governments toward the development of a pan-Canadian system that ensures children have equivalent access to high quality, accessible, affordable, and inclusive child care services from coast to coast to coast.

A recent MCCA/Probe Research survey provided ample evidence that the Manitoba public, parents, and business leaders all agree that the shortage of child care is a serious issue, and a barrier to employment and education. It is also essential to healthy child development, women's equality, integration of newcomers, poverty reduction, and family support.

The Manitoba Child Care Association is a membership funded, non-profit organization that advocates for a quality system of child care and works to advance early childhood education as a profession.

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