



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MCCA Launches Unique Child Care Research Project**

The Manitoba Child Care Association (MCCA) has engaged Probe Research to conduct a survey of parents with children currently enrolled in 746 child care centres and family child care homes that are MCCA members. The parent survey will be open to qualified respondents online from September 15 – September 30, 2016.

The waiting list for licensed child care continues to climb to record levels in Manitoba, with a new high of 15,078 children as of June 30, 2016. The number of children waiting for a space has almost doubled since the Online Child Care Registry was introduced five years ago.

“This research project is a first for Manitoba”, said April Kalyniuk, MCCA President. “Parents will be asked to report on their challenges in finding child care, opinions about affordability, preferences, impact of child care access on employment or education, and opinions on possible policy changes such as those recommended by the recent Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Commission.”

Additional areas of research are also underway and will include a survey of the child care workforce, a public opinion survey of the general public, and a survey of business leaders to identify how child care access impacts the workplace. Results from the entire research project will be made available later this year.

The need for better data was recommended by the 2013 Auditor General Report on Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care, and the Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Commission. MCCA is advocating for a child care system that works for Manitoba, with enough accessible and affordable spaces to meet demand, a skilled, well-compensated workforce, with strong infrastructure, governance, and administration.

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