

POLICY SHORTS & SOUND BITES for ELCC & FAMILY POLICY

March 2021

NOTE: ELCC = early learning and child care

ENDING DAYCARE DISCRIMINATION

- **Child care means the care of a child.** Define “child care” and ELCC inclusively to include parental ELCC. End discriminatory definitions current in the federal and provincial laws.
- The **government should be neutral** on parental decisions regarding GDP sector work and family care work. (See ‘Principals’ in the 1999 Final Report of the Subcommittee on Tax Equity for Families with Dependent Children of the Finance Committee <https://kidsfirstcanada.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/tax-paper-1.pdf>)
- **FUND CHILDREN NOT SPACES AND SYSTEMS:** All ELCC funding - welfare for parents, child tax benefits, child care expense deduction, kindergarten, ELCC funding, EI parental leave - should go to families directly (demand side funding) based on age of children and perhaps/partially on income. A REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT may be the least costly way to implement.
- (ELCC) **EQUAL CHOICE = EQUAL FUNDING.**
- **FAMILIES ARE VERY DIVERSE.** So is ELCC.
- **CELEBRATE ELCC DIVERSITY.** No ‘one size fits all’.
- **BE FAIR:** When the daycare ‘space’ is closed or your child is sick, the \$ still goes to the space while you do the work.
- **END DAYCARE DISCRIMINATION - COMPLY WITH THE CHARTER** (Supreme Court of Canada’s) protection of parents’ LIBERTY rights to raise their children and children’s rights to security of person.
- **POINT OUT THE IDEOLOGICAL HYPOCRISY:** Some political parties, academics, activists, pundits, and media outlets pride themselves on equality, right, diversity, support for the vulnerable, fairness, personal autonomy, and sustainability. Except in family care policy where these ideals are tossed in favour of getting parents - especially mothers - to be, do and believe what big banks, big business, big unions and a few ideologues want. Point out that **EXCLUSIONARY DISCRIMINATORY ELCC POLICIES exclude most children and most women and most parents.**

RESPECTING PARENTS

- **STOP PUNISHING PARENTS FOR CARING FOR THEIR OWN CHILDREN.**
- Put **parents back in control** of ELCC decisions by funding families not systems and spaces.
- **Trust parents.**

- No more **BEER AND POPCORN**.

- **THANK PARENTS** FOR THE WORK THEY DO RAISING CHILDREN. WE ARE **THE FRONT LINE WORKERS**.

- **FAIRNESS**: how many parents have 'Leave it to Beaver' 9-5 Mon-Fri schedules that fit the 'system' schedule?

QUALITY OF REGULATED ELCC

- Do not harm children: Ensure that licensing requirements for the ELCC **do not compromise children's well-being**. Eg current allowable ratios are 'a license to neglect' - Dr Jay Belsky - top international academic on child care outcomes.

- **QUALITY**: we're not talking about coffee here, we're talking about the kind of ELCC that our most vulnerable receive: babies and little children. Government has allowed the scandal of inadequate quality to go on too long, harming children and society.

TRANSPARENCY, TRUTH & INFORMED PARENTAL CONSENT

- **Allow parents informed consent**.

- Take on the "**BEST START IN LIFE**" **LIE**: point out that all studies of quality in license ELCC show that the majority is minimal to mediocre.

- **EVIDENCE BASED POLICY IS NEEDED**: For decades, daycare lobbyists and Statistics Canada have systematically misinformed the public and policy makers on ELCC - eg misleading data on % in "child care" with overly narrow definitions of ELCC and overbroad definitions of "work", suppressing information of child outcomes, costs, and parental preferences.

- End the **CAMPAIGN OF DISINFORMATION**: Government needs to stop manipulating and patronizing parents by lying to them about what the **REAL EVIDENCE SAYS** about ELCC.

- **End funding for the daycare lobby** and its campaign of disinformation by government and government funded NGOs.

SEXISM & "GENDER EQUITY"

- **No carrots, no sticks: respect women's choices** when it comes to jobs and family care work.

- **WORK IS WORK**.

- Stop treating women as incompetent third class citizens when they prefer to prioritize family care work over full time jobs.

- **GENDER EQUITY?** It is harmful and misogynistic when government tells mothers they are not working, not contributing and not productive when they are working caring for their children.

- Stop treating women like little children: let us decide for ourselves who will look after our children without coercion in the form of government financial 'incentives'.

- **"Every mother is a working mother."** (feminist slogan)

SUSTAINABLE HOLISTIC FAMILY CARE POLICY

- **SUSTAINABILITY:** where will all the very loving, highly trained child ELCC workers come from for the 'system'? PARENTS WANT to do most of this work, and they are in fact doing the vast majority.

- **A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY** includes, recognizes, honours and FUNDS FAMILY CARE.

- AGREE WITH MARK CARNEY, former Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, that the **GDP is inadequate** to measure what we value*: add an additional measure, eg Human Development Index, Genuine Progress Indicator

* CBC Ideas lecture Feb. 24, 2021 <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1865606723729>

- Require FBA - **"FAMILY-BASED ANALYSIS"** - of policy to see the impact on families with dependent children and other vulnerable dependents/members. (Add to the GBA - Gender-Based Analysis).

- Universal daycare has long been pushed by big banks, big business, big unions, and some ideologues, but not by parents. LOW ENROLLMENT persists despite the fact that we have thrown billions of dollars at this. But it still does not stick. Parents are just not buying it.