

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Child care advocates say staff shortages put Canada’s promised early learning and child care system at risk

OTTAWA, NOVEMBER 30, 2022– Across the country, child care advocates, early childhood educators, and child care operators are holding [events](#) across the country to call attention to the child care workforce crisis which is severely curtailing access to lower-fee licensed child care spaces.

“Over the last year the provinces and territories have used federal funding to bring down parent fees for licensed child care by 50 per cent in most jurisdictions, and in some cases to an average of \$10 a day, but demand for this much more affordable child care far outstrips supply,” said Morna Ballantyne, Executive Director of Child Care Now, Canada’s national child care advocacy organization. “This means we now have an even bigger gap between those children who have access and those who don’t.”

In an [open letter](#) to all governments, Child Care Now says equitable access to affordable child care requires new approaches to getting more licensed child care in place, and that governments must take immediate action to improve the wages and working conditions in the sector.

“The first major stumbling blocks in the way of increasing the availability of licensed child care is the shortage of qualified early childhood educators which is directly linked to inadequate staff compensation, poor working conditions, and limited career-related opportunities,” said Ballantyne. “The second problem is that governments continue to rely on private initiatives and ‘requests for proposals’ to increase the number of licensed programs instead of developing and funding a government-led strategy to expand not-for-profit and public child care programs,” Ballantyne added.

Child Care Now says that by the time the average parent fee is down to \$10 a day, as required by the federal-provincial/territorial child care funding agreements, most parents of young children will be demanding a space in the publicly-funded system but to provide coverage for even just two-thirds of children 0-5 year of age, 1.5 million licensed spaces will be needed. Right now, the supply is about half that.

For more information, contact:

Morna Ballantyne, Executive Director, Child Care Now
613.791.3411
morna.ballantyne@childcarenow.ca

About Child Care Now

Child Care Now (formerly Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada) is dedicated to advocating for a publicly funded, inclusive, quality, non-profit child care system. Our organization is non-profit, membership-based and regionally representative.