



Affordable childcare:

Roundtable with
Tom Mulcair

OCTOBER 7 2014

Canada's Official Opposition

Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7th 2014

Canadian parents deserve affordable childcare

OTTAWA – There is an urgent need for affordable childcare and the NDP has heard that call loud and clear.

“In 2014, it’s unacceptable that many families have to pay more for childcare than they do for rent. The NDP is determined to propose a practical plan to address the needs of parents across Canada,” said NDP leader Tom Mulcair.

This roundtable is a continuation of a broader consultation the NDP held through the summer. In August, Mr. Mulcair kicked off consultations on early childhood education and childcare with parents, experts and community activists in Oshawa, Kitchener and Waterloo.

“The federal government has to be an active partner with provinces in order to help parents. After 30 years of Liberals and Conservatives promising and yet failing to deliver, the NDP isn’t waiting until the next election. In the coming weeks, we will be announcing the details of a national childcare program that an NDP government will put in place,” added Tom Mulcair.

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For more information, please contact:

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Canadian childcare facts

Our children are a treasure. But finding a safe, high quality and affordable place to learn and grow is increasingly difficult for parents of young children in Canada. Countless parents pay more than \$1000 per child each month for childcare—if they can find a space at all.

Sam and Erica have two children: Ethan (age 3) and Emily (18 months). To send both to Little Love Bugs in Nepean, Sam and Erica would spend 34% of their income on childcare fees, if they made the median income of \$84,500 for a family in Ottawa-Gatineau. If Erica were a single mom, those fees would soar to 68% of her income.

Canadian childcare costs by the numbers:

- // Average daily cost of an infant childcare space in Ontario: **\$57**
- // Children from working families who have no access to regulated childcare: **900,000**
- // Cost of infant childcare as a share of the average family's income: **18 percent**
- // Cost of housing as a share of the average family's income: **21 percent**
- // Cost of employee turnover, absenteeism and health care premiums born by Canadian business due to a lack of affordable childcare: **\$4 billion**

We can do better:

- // Increase in women's workforce participation following creation of Quebec's childcare program: **70,000**
- // Growth in Quebec's GDP because those women were in the workforce: **\$5.1 billion**
- // Amount recouped per \$1 invested in childcare, via tax revenue and lower spending: **\$1.75**
- // Children in First Nation communities with no access to regulated childcare: **78 percent**

After nine years of Conservative government, Canada ranks dead last among 14 comparable countries when it comes to public investment in early learning and childcare.

Tom Mulcair believes Canadians deserve better.

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Roundtable participants

Aalya Ahmed

Parent to Sophia (6 years) and Garnet (2 years).
Resident of Quebec—familiar with the province’s childcare system.

Peter Anderson

Parent to Eva (15 years) and Leonie (12 years).
Doctor at Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

Shellie Bird

Childcare Campaign Coordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Brenda Frey

Program Coordinator, Dalhousie Parents Daycare.

Jackie Kennelly

Parent to Kailin 6 (years) and Desmond (14 months).
Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology,
Carleton University.

Samantha McGavin

Parent to Astrid (4 years) and Sascha (7 months).
Non-profit communications professional.

Erica Shaker

Parent to Merryn (9 years) and Brier (4 years).
Director of the Education Project, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Jessica Sselwanjja

Stay-at-home mom to Kori (7 months).