

OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Child Care

Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the Conservative government has a track record of broken promises, of deception, of cancellation and ripped up contracts. The Atlantic accord, Kyoto, Kelowna were all ripped up. Summer jobs programs were cancelled. Early learning and child care agreements were destroyed, and the result is the children of Canada have been left without quality, universal, accessible and affordable child care.

Will the children of Canada be forced to take the Prime Minister to court to get him to honour his word and deliver child care spaces for Canada's kids?

Hon. Monte Solberg (Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the Conference Board of Canada report singled out the former government for its poor record on providing child care spaces. The fact is this government acted and acted quickly. Upon coming to power we put in place the universal child care benefit, something that gave parents choice in child care, which is what parents are asking for.

The sad fact is the leader of the Liberal Party in October said he would take that away. He has no faith in parents and he should be ashamed.

Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the truth is the Conservatives have delivered nothing for Canada's kids. The truth is they have established a pattern of breaking contracts. One promise after the next has been broken. The truth is 125,000 child care spaces were promised and not one single space was delivered. Today the Conference Board said that our country is mired in mediocrity.

Why does the government not realize that by failing to invest in Canada's kids, it is risking our nation's economic productivity and prosperity?

(1445)

Hon. Monte Solberg (Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that with the universal child care benefit, the new child tax credit and the \$250 million a year for new spaces, we are now giving to parents, child care providers and the provinces three times what the Liberals were giving. We are getting the job done where the Liberals absolutely failed.

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