

**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

**Child Care**

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

Mr. Speaker, day in and day out the Conservatives refuse to listen to outraged parents. They refuse to listen to child care groups who signed petitions. They refuse to listen to cities that passed motions to not slash the Liberal child care plan, a plan that provided accessible and affordable day care for Canadian parents and families.

Will the Minister of Human Resources, who has already axed 4,000 child care spaces in Toronto, admit that the Conservative child care choice of \$1.60 a day is really no choice at all?

Why are the voices of parents falling on deaf ears?

**Hon. Diane Finley (Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member across the floor seems to think that we are taking away spaces when in fact these spaces were never created by the previous government. We cannot take away what was never given by the previous government.

We are providing \$1,200 a year to the parents of each child under the age of six, which is \$1,200 more than the previous government provided for child care. We also will be creating 125,000 new spaces at work, at home and in the community. That is way more than we have heard even promised before.

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister should actually be embarrassed for parroting those canned lines from the PMO. The truth is that the Conservatives are taking away spaces and taking away money from Canadian families and Canadian parents.

The Conservative government has been busy cutting important social programs, despite inheriting one of the best surpluses from the previous Liberal government.

Given that the NDP has already betrayed Canadians by trading our national child care program for 10 more seats, Canadians are counting on the Liberal Party to ensure that we protect child care in this country.

Will the minister tell the House if the Conservative government will deliver and guarantee the \$100 million--

**The Speaker:**

The hon. Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

**Hon. Diane Finley (Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, we are in the business of creating child care spaces and of creating choice in child care: day care for those who need it and babysitters at night for those who need it.

Whether people live in small communities like my own or in big cities, we will help parents. We will help working families get the choice in child care that meets their unique needs.