

OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Child Care

(1420)

[*English*]

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

Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives inherited the best fiscal record of any incoming government. They had an opportunity to invest in the children of this country and they failed. They delivered a Mike Harris style budget and they failed to create a single child care space in Canada. The minister herself has stated that her plan “may not be the ideal”. I guess the Prime Minister forgot to muzzle that comment.

If both the minister and the parliamentary secretary do not believe in their plan, how do they hope to convince Canadians that they do have choice for child care in this country?

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

Mr. Speaker, there are people out there who would like the government to pay for everything for them.

What we are trying to do is provide parents with young children, who are at their lowest earning years and who have high expenses, with the resources to access the choice in child care that suits their needs. We are also trying to make sure that they have 125,000 new spaces from which to choose when they are making that decision.

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

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that the minister has become a stooge of Mike Harris.

I know the Conservatives have trouble counting past five, but let me tell them that under the Liberal government we created 6,000 child care spaces that no longer exist because of the fact that they have provided no money.

It is clear that the minister has no plan and no policy. Day after day she repeats the same lines from the PMO.

Canadian parents want action and they want it now. Will the minister admit that the tax credit that is being offered has absolutely no benefit to non-profit day care centres to create accessible, affordable--

The Speaker:

The hon. Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

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

Mr. Speaker, the facts are that our plans for the universal child care benefit have been endorsed by many in communities right across the country.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has said that the one group that will benefit immensely from this budget is Canadian households with young children. Economically they will rocket ahead, thanks to the government's fulfillment of its promise to provide all families with \$100 a month for each child under the age of six.

That is a strong endorsement.

Coalition for a Nuclear Free Peel

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the many constituents of Brampton--Springdale, I would like to voice my support for a nuclear free Peel. As one of the fastest growing regions in the country, we must ensure the highest quality of life is provided to children, seniors and families, and that includes a nuclear free region.

Radioactive waste should not be allowed to be trucked through densely populated urban areas, and neither should the incineration of nuclear waste be permitted.

I commend the many citizens of Brampton--Springdale and the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Peel for fighting this charge and this change, and I hope this leadership will ensure that Brampton--Springdale does remain nuclear free. It is important for the children, the seniors and the families who live there.

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