



For Immediate Release
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Conservatives off Track on Fitness

Ottawa – The Conservative government's report, released yesterday, on a new Children's Fitness Tax Credit is nothing but smoke and mirrors, and yet another attempt to confuse Canadians, Liberal Health Critic Ruby Dhalla said today.

"Much like the Conservative childcare program that gives parents far less than \$100.00 a month after taxes per child, this tax credit will result in \$6.25 a month per child for them to participate in a sporting activity," said Ms. Dhalla.

Credits are multiplied by the lowest bracket amount (15.25 percent this year), which makes the credit worth \$76.25 per year. This is hardly enough to help working-class families enroll their children in a swimming class or to play hockey for a full year. This program once again will only benefit those parents that have can already afford to enroll their children in sporting activities.

"Evidence has shown that there is a direct correlation between poverty, child inactivity and childhood obesity. \$6.25 a month will do nothing to combat childhood obesity, which is supposed to be the stated goal. We need to have direct investments in communities to increase the number of programs and infrastructure projects that encourage real participation in physical activities among our children," said Ms. Dhalla.

"This is just another example of the Conservatives' tax-credit-cure-all mentality. It is time that the fitness and wellbeing of Canada's children is put first."

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