



For Immediate Release
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Harper Government Gets Failing Grade on Child Care

OTTAWA – The failing grade on child care given to the Conservative government by child care advocates is further proof that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is failing Canadian families, Social Development Critic Ruby Dhalla said.

“The report couldn’t be clearer – the Prime Minister’s work on child care has been a disgrace,” said Ms. Dhalla. “The report card states that he has failed Canada’s children and their parents – and we couldn’t agree more.”

Ms. Dhalla said the report – compiled by Code Blue for Child Care – highlights everything that Liberals have been saying for a year now.

“Prime Minister Harper’s so-called Universal Child Care Plan is not child care – it is an allowance, and a meager one at that. It’s taxable, it’s unaccountable and it’s not a ‘plan’ at all. He cut funds to child care and hasn’t created one new space,” she said.

“This is not to be taken lightly. This is a very serious issue for thousands of parents across this country. Centres are closing, parent fees are going up and there’s no expansion of the child care system. The situation is dire, and Mr. Harper needs to wake up and smell the coffee.”

The Prime Minister needs to start listening to communities, provinces and businesses across Canada who have been telling him for months that his government’s promised capital funding for 125,000 new spaces just won’t work, added Ms. Dhalla.

“It is scandalous that this prime minister continues to check off child care on his list of so-called accomplishments when thousands of families continue to struggle to cobble together child care arrangements. It’s time that Mr. Harper listened to their pleas and honour the Liberal child care agreements with the provinces.

“He must realize that child care choices for parents are shrinking, not growing. This problem is not going to go away, no matter how long he continues to ignore it,” she said.

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