



For Immediate Release
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Liberals Continue to Fight for Childcare

OTTAWA - Fighting on behalf of Canadian families, the Liberal Opposition was instrumental today in getting the Early Learning and Child Care Act passed at committee, Liberal Social Development Critic Ruby Dhalla said.

"We are committed to push this Conservative government for a national child care plan. This government is failing Canadian parents with their piecemeal approach of an insufficient, taxable handout," said Ms. Dhalla. "The early learning and child care plan implemented by the former Liberal government would have ensured the creation of quality, affordable and accessible child care spaces.

"We hope with the passing of this Bill at committee, the Conservatives will show some leadership and get it passed into law as quickly as possible. Parents are tired of waiting for this government to act," she said.

Bill C-303 was passed at today's Human Resources and Social Development Committee after Ms. Dhalla put forward amendments including provisions for Aboriginal parents.

"We worked cooperatively with the opposition parties to get this moved through committee," said Ms. Dhalla. "Not surprisingly, every Conservative member voted against all amendments and, ultimately, the bill itself.

"Although Bill C-303 is a good start, the ideal situation would be for this government to honour the Liberal child care agreements that were made in cooperation and collaboration with the provinces and territories and child care advocacy organizations. The investments in early learning and child care under the Liberal plan were much more comprehensive in nature and provided greater opportunities for both child and parent.

"The Conservatives need to honour the will of the committee and implement a comprehensive national child care program. Anything less is simply failing the children of Canada," she said.

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