

UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE FOR ALL—A JOINT STATEMENT

CCPRN and Embolden PDC stand together to support home child care across Canada. We issue the following joint statement regarding the negotiations currently underway between the federal government and the provinces of Ontario and Alberta in the implementation of a national child care system.

CCPRN and Embolden PDC are committed to the well-being and safety of all children, including those who are cared for by independent (unlicensed) operators. We believe that parents are competent and capable of making child care choices that are best suited to meet their family's needs, and we know that quality child care exists, and is exemplified, among all sectors.

This is why we are coming together in unity to call upon the federal government and provincial governments of Ontario and Alberta to work together to create a child care plan that supports all families regardless of who they choose to care for their children.

As it stands, the majority of children in Ontario and Alberta are not part of the licensed child care system. Creating a universal child care system that focuses solely on licensed public sector child care means that most families will be left without the support that the federal plan has to offer. In addition to limiting parents' choices, this type of plan will result in the closure of many small businesses, most of which are owned and operated by women entrepreneurs.

While space creation is a key component of the proposed national child care plan, expecting this program to give Ontario and Alberta the ability to solve the accessibility issue we are currently facing is idealistic. We must recognize that parents will continue to rely on independent (unlicensed) operators to meet their child care needs.

To implement a truly universal child care system the federal government must acknowledge and respect the choices that Ontario and Alberta parents make when caring for their children. A plan that provides flexibility in how parents can utilize child care supports will be key to creating a system that truly benefits all families. Enhancing & expanding already established programs like the Canada Child Benefit would ensure that all families have access to affordable child care.

Canadian parents know what is best for their families and deserve a system that meets their unique needs. A plan that highlights quality care, supports all families by respecting their child care choices, increases affordability, and values the work of caring for children is not only possible but essential.

We ask the federal government to consider the full impacts of a universal program and insist that bilateral early learning and child care agreements with Ontario and Alberta be inclusive of all child care sectors and supportive of all children and families.



Danielle Bourdin
Founder of Embolden Private Dayhome Community



Brenda Burns
Board President, Child Care Providers Resource Network

Embolden Private Dayhome Community is a support network dedicated to improving the safety and quality of unlicensed child care in Alberta through the provision of professional development opportunities, community support and evidence-based resources.

Child Care Providers Resource Network of Ottawa-Carleton is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to providing training, support, information, and resources to home-based child care providers. CCPRN has close to 40 years as a successful organization and a network reach of over 4500 providers and parents.