

August 24, 2020

We launched Early Years Study 4 in February 2020 as the coronavirus was just appearing in Canada but before we recognized its full impact. COVID-19 has brutally pushed its burdens onto those most disadvantaged by racism and poverty.

Government stimulus may soften but has not erased the pandemic's penalties. Women are curtailing their careers as access to schools, child care and eldercare shrinks. Children's wellbeing has been modulated by their parents' time, as well as access to outdoor play space and learning resources.

The evidence-informed vision and recommendations that we put forward in Early Years Study 4 are needed more than ever to help families address the trauma of the pandemic, to support parental employment and to ensure children aren't left behind. We cannot let the pandemic magnify society's economic and racial inequities in Canada. We can use the opportunity to ensure all children benefit.

Today a [series](#) of seven podcasts from *In Conversation* with Stephen Hurley begins. Each podcast features one of the chapters and one or two of the contributors from Early Years Study 4. While the world around has changed dramatically, the key findings remain a map to how we can move forward.



Listen as a [range of experts](#) join Stephen and me to discuss their contributions to the Early Years Study's prescription for how Canada must invest in quality programs and create a more sustainable and just world.

And if you would like to receive a hardcopy of [Early Years Study 4](#), please send an email to with your mailing address to info@earlyyearsstudy.ca.

Regards,



Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain