



February 16, 2021

**Please join me:** On Friday, February 19 from 1 to 2 pm EST, I will be participating in a free webinar hosted by the Pearson Centre called, ***Should Child Care be in the Budget?*** A child care system has been talked about in Canada for decades, but COVID-19 has stressed the importance of implementing an early learning and child care system to support Canada's post-pandemic economic recovery. I will discuss this issue in-depth with Canadian economist David Dodge, former provincial cabinet Minister and business executive Cathy Bennett, senior Pearson Centre researcher Sharon Fernandez and former Ontario MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris. You can register for free at <http://bit.ly/ChildCarePlan>

**Also, an important reminder that** Friday February 19, 2021 is the final day you can complete the Government of Canada's [pre-budget survey](#) to get the public's feedback on what matters most to them. The survey results will inform the government's priorities for the 2021 budget.

Investing in early learning and child care (ELCC) is recognized as an option in several of the survey questions, but it is up to each respondent to prioritize ELCC in their responses.

**Please tell the Federal government that early learning and child care is a priority by filling out the survey [here](#).** You can also upload a [written submission](#) to give the government your ideas on how we can build a better early learning and child care system in Canada.

I will be telling the Federal Government what I want for Canada's children:

- To build on public education to create **universal** access for all children;
- To ensure early learning and child care programs are **high-quality** and are led by qualified educators who are compensated as professionals;
- **More government funding** to create quality programs that respond to what communities need; and,
- **Public oversight** to promote quality programs, equitable access and provide accountability for public funding.

The pre-budget consultation period ends this Friday so be sure to submit your responses before the survey closes.

Together we can help create a strong, publicly funded and universally accessible early learning and child care system in Canada. Please make sure to have your voice heard!

Regards,

Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain