

Early Years Study 4 Newsletter #22
March 28, 2022

Canada's government is to be congratulated for accomplishing where others have tried and failed. A pan-Canadian Early Learning and Child Care program became a reality today when the ink dried on a \$13.2 billion, six year deal between Ottawa and Queen's Park.

Ontario became the thirteenth and final jurisdiction to join in the creation of Canada's newest, and what some might say most important, social program. \$30 billion is already flowing and within the next five years will deliver affordable early learning and child care to more than a million children under five-years-old.

This is a nation building endeavour. Children will benefit from a smart start in life that will follow through into better health, well-being and productivity. Canada will gain as more women take their rightful place in the workforce. Working mothers not only raise the standard of living for their families, we collectively benefit from their contribution and expertise. These are behind the reasons economists can say that public spending on early learning and child care delivers not only for this generation but for those to come.

As implementation plans roll out in Ontario and elsewhere, we will be watchful to see that all families benefit equitably regardless of where they live or where they come from. We will want governments to be accountable, to ensure that public funds are spent efficiently and effectively to deliver the best possible programs for children. This of course means that we must value the educators who put the quality, into quality early learning and child care.



Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain