

February 17, 2025

Minister Hindley,

I am writing today on behalf of Child Care now Saskatchewan because we have been made aware that the federal government is encouraging a CW-ELCC renewal request from every province. We are expecting that Saskatchewan will be doing this immediately and begin to renegotiate so that the program can continue to grow beyond the initial March 31, 2026 agreement date.

Considering the political uncertainty in Canada currently, I'm sure you can recognize that this program is critical for families and children in Saskatchewan. We know that the \$10/day program still has some pieces to implement, and we know that we need additional funding, new spaces, new jobs, and higher wages to help it continue to succeed.

#### Why is this important?

Even with the program only being in its third year, it's already possible to measure some of the economic benefits being realized from it, such as the November 2024 [Powering Growth Report](#), by Dr. Jim Stanford. Some important factors to note:

Employment in ELCC centres has grown four times faster than overall employment in Canada, providing a significant boost to labour markets during challenging economic times. ELCC jobs now total over 1% of all payroll employment in Canada. Average weekly earnings have increased 28% in the last five years, significantly faster than overall earnings in the Canadian labour market – and significantly faster than consumer prices. Real earnings for ELCC workers are 9% higher than in 2019, and the gap between ELCC wages and economy-wide average wages has narrowed. And although there are still pieces of the program to be rolled out in Saskatchewan, increased federal and provincial funding under the national program combined with complementary agreements around wage grids, training, and workforce retention, will support increased wages for our Saskatchewan ELCC workforce.

Federal and provincial governments collect a significant share of incremental GDP through various tax channels (including income, sales, and corporate taxes). The enhancement to national output arising directly and indirectly from expanded ELCC services has already contributed several billion dollars to annual government revenues.

The rollout of the CW-ELCC program has led to increases in the number of regulated child care spaces in Canada, and significant reductions (of over 50%) in average fees paid by parents. The average cost of childcare services to Canadian consumers declined 28% between 2021 and 2024 – a sharp contrast to the 13% increase in overall consumer prices experienced in the same time.

It is abundantly clear that the provision of accessible, affordable, high-quality ELCC services will continue to generate a wide range of economic, social, and fiscal benefits that enhance the well-being of our province in the long term. The \$10/day program is already making a major difference in the lives of families, communities, and – most importantly – children in all Saskatchewan. Even though the program is new, its economic impacts are already punching above their weight.

The evidence we are seeing so far across the country should reaffirm the commitment by both federal and provincial governments to maintain and expand this program. We can see it is working but needs continued endorsement and support so it can reach its full potential.

We look forward to seeing a public response from you about this matter so that residents of Saskatchewan can be assured that this program will continue.

Sincerely,

Sue Delanoy  
Chapter Chair  
Child Care Now Saskatchewan

cc:  
Scott Moe, Premier  
Joan Pratchler, Shadow Minister for Childcare and Early Education

*Child Care Now's office is located on the unceded Anishinaabe Algonquin territory and our organization is active on the unceded, treaty and contested lands and waters across Turtle Island. As a national advocacy organization, Child Care Now respects and affirms the inherent rights, the historical claims, and Treaty Rights of all Indigenous Peoples across the lands and waters with whom we strive to work in solidarity.*

*Child Care Now commits to the Truth and Reconciliation's 94 calls to action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation. We note, in particular, Call #12 which calls upon all governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous families.*