

PRESS RELEASE

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Quebec government changes to \$5 a day child care and the possible elimination of universal access to child care is sending shock waves across Canada in the child care sector.

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OTTAWA – “The Quebec government hearings this week about the possible elimination of universal access to child care in Quebec, is sending shock waves through the child care sector across Canada,” said Gyda Chud, Chair of the Child Care Human Resources Round Table.

“The universal Quebec child care system has been a model for many child care programs across the country over the past several years, affording the recruitment and retention of a well qualified workforce. Significant government funding in Quebec has enabled the improvement of remuneration of the workforce and higher quality child care. The loss of universal access could result in the deterioration of remuneration and working conditions for the work force and ultimately the quality of services for children,” said Chud.

‘Our Child Care Workforce, From Recognition to Remuneration’, the 1998 sector study, identifies that caregivers are the single most important factor in ensuring the quality and availability of child care; and that good wages and benefits will attract and retain qualified child care providers. Over the past five years increased wages and the introduction of benefits in Quebec had made child care a much more attractive career choice.

“Workforce conditions in Quebec were leading the country,” said Chud. In other parts of Canada where government funding is less, the sector is finding it hard to attract and retain qualified staff. Developments in Quebec could be of grave concern for the country, the child care workforce and for parents and children needing quality child care.”

“Quality, affordable, accessible child care in Canada is good for children and families, good for the workforce, and good for business and the Canadian economy”, said Chud.

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