



Saskatchewan Child Care Advocates Concerned: no agreement signed for Saskatchewan yet!

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With a federal election likely to be called very soon, child care advocates are anxious that the Saskatchewan government move quickly to negotiate a child care agreement with the federal government so that work can begin right away on making regulated services more affordable and available for Saskatchewan families.

“The federal government is offering Canada’s provinces and territories a total of \$34 billion over the next five years and we have calculated based on the agreements signed to date that Saskatchewan’s share would amount to just over one billion dollars,” said Sue Delanoy, spokesperson for the Saskatchewan Child Care Now Coalition. “The provincial government doesn’t have to spend a penny more to get those federal dollars, all it has to do is agree to lower the cost of parent fees to \$10 a day, increase the availability of services for children under 6, and improve the wages and working conditions of early childhood educators to attract and retain more qualified staff to the sector. It’s stunning that the province has failed to reach an agreement so far.”

Delanoy said that there is a strong consensus across Canada that bringing down parent fees and making child care more available will speed up economic recovery from the pandemic because it will enable mothers with young children to participate in the paid labour force. She noted that the finance minister of Manitoba’s Progressive Conservative government made exactly this point when he signed the child care agreement between his province and the Government of Canada was announced this week.

We believe that Saskatchewan families deserve a high quality, accessible, affordable, and culturally safe system of early learning child care. This is our chance as a province to build a stronger made-in-Saskatchewan system of early learning child care – one that is responsive to the needs and priorities of our province.

The time for child care is NOW!

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For more information, please contact:

Sue Delanoy, Advocate
Child Care Now Saskatchewan
Email: saskatchewan@ccnow.ca
Phone: 306-241-4952
Website: <https://timeforchildcare.ca/>

