

Most Canadians Vote FOR a Child Care System!

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Stephen Harper's Conservatives won a small minority government on January 23rd, but most Canadians voted for a quality child care system that meets the needs of children, families and communities.

"Yesterday's results are not an endorsement of the Conservative's plan to cancel funding for community-based child care," says Susan Harney, Chairperson of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. "Canadians know that a taxable allowance of \$100 a month will not build the system families need. After taxes, moderate income families where both parents work outside the home will actually benefit the least."

"The Conservatives say they support family choice," says Sharon Gregson, parent of 4 and community activist. "Sure families have different needs. Some need full-time child care, some need part-time care. Some parents use daycare centres, others use care provided by a caregiver in her home. Many at-home parents use pre-school programs to help their children make friends and develop skills. For families to have real choice, these programs have to be available and affordable in communities across Canada."

Both the federal Liberal and New Democrats campaigned on a commitment to defend and extend action on child care. The Bloc Québécois proudly supports Quebec's publicly funded child care system. This is clearly an issue on which all of the opposition parties can and should work together. In this minority government, they have the power to make sure that the child care clock isn't turned back. We are calling on them to make it a top priority.

Action on child care needn't be at the expense of income supports for low and moderate income families. The two must go hand in hand. The Conservative child care election platform does neither.

Last night, the leaders promised to make this new parliament work for Canada. They can start by building a good child care system.