

Changing Saskatchewan's Grade on Child Care

WHEREAS a report published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and written by Courtney Carlberg and Jen Budney identified Saskatchewan's failing grade on child care;

WHEREAS Licensed child care in Saskatchewan can accommodate only 18 percent of children aged 5 and under;

WHEREAS 70 percent of mothers of children aged 5 and under work;

WHEREAS Saskatchewan is falling behind both Canadian averages for Child Care and the OECD's recommended benchmarks for Child Care;

WHEREAS early childhood development improves the life outcomes of individuals later in life;

WHEREAS supporting child care leads to greater gender equality since women do not have to leave work to take care of children;

WHEREAS supporting a woman's choice to have children supports her right to self-determination and freedom;

WHEREAS the TRC's 7th Call to Action is "to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians" and its 12th Call to Action is for "federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Saskatchewan Liberal government will collaborate with First Nations and the Federal Government to improve on-reserve child care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the province's subsidy eligibility criteria for families with children in child care be updated, with gross income

thresholds raised to levels that will make quality, licensed child care affordable for all low-income and lower middle income families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the additional recommendations of the report cited above be investigated.

More information on the report cited above can be found at:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/saskatchewans-failing-report-card-child-care>