



October 24, 2023

Ratna Omidvar
Chair
Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Ratna.Omidvar@sen.parl.gc.ca

Re: Child Care Now - Submission re Bill C35

Dear Committee,

Child Care Now Alberta would like to take this opportunity to support the submission of the National Child Care Now organization.

We fully support their call for the following recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Amend the Bill to define early learning and child care

Unless the Bill properly defines the type of early learning and child care, it could be incorrectly interpreted to provide legislative permission to publicly finance, with federal funds, unregulated and even informal care for children. While informal care may be something worthy to consider in the future, this federal legislation and funding is not the proper vehicle for that consideration. We support the proposed language for consideration:

Early learning and child care means programs or services that are licensed or regulated by provincial, territorial, Indigenous governments or organizations. For the purposes of this legislation, early learning and child care does not include kindergarten or pre-kindergarten delivered by school authorities.

Recommendation #2: A Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology study the building of the Canada-wide system of early learning and child care

It would also be beneficial for legislators to take some time to consider what progress has been made since 2021 with respect to system-building, and to learn ways to improve on the experience so that the goals of Bill C-35, set out in Section 6 (Declaration) are achieved within reasonable time.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. We can be reached at alberta@childcarenow.ca.



Sincerely,

Susan Cake,
Chair of Child Care Now Alberta

cc Emily Barrette, Emily.Barrette@sen.parl.gc.ca
Morna Ballantyne, morna.ballantyne@childcarenow.ca

