



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-01752**

BY: **Ms. DABRUSIN (TORONTO—DANFORTH)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 26, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **ADAM VAUGHAN**

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Response by the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**National Child Care Program**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

To help Canadian children get the best start in life and better support Canadian families, Budgets 2016 and 2017 announced an investment of \$7.5 billion over 11 years, starting in 2017-2018, to support and create more high-quality, affordable child care across the country, particularly for families more in need.

On June 12, 2017, the Government of Canada announced a historic agreement with provincial and territorial governments on a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework. The Framework will be seeking to increase the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusivity in early learning and child care, in particular for families that need child care the most.

On June 16, 2017, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario concluded the first Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement, allocating \$435 million to Ontario over three years, starting in 2017-18, towards increasing the accessibility and affordability of high-quality licensed child care and quality early learning opportunities. The Government also concluded bilateral agreements with the governments of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nunavut.

The federal government is working with other provinces and territories to enter into three-year bilateral agreements that will outline their unique early learning and child care needs to be addressed. Through the bilateral agreements the Government of Canada will provide provinces and territories with \$1.2 billion over the next three years for early learning and child care programs.

Additionally, the Government of Canada introduced the Canada Child Benefit to provide increased support for low- to middle-income families with children. The Government recently announced that it would strengthen the Canada Child Benefit to make sure it keeps pace with the rising cost of living, by making annual cost of living increases to the Canada Child Benefit starting in July 2018 – two years ahead of schedule. That means more money, tax-free, for books, skating lessons or warm clothes for winter.