



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-04516**

BY: **MR. STETSKI (KOOTENAY-COLUMBIA)**

DATE: **JUNE 18, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **ADAM VAUGHAN**

Response by the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

National child care program

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada recognizes that Canadians deserve the opportunity to raise their families the way they want, but far too many do not have access to the high-quality, affordable child care they need.

Supporting early child development can have long-term benefits that can extend throughout children's lives. Research shows that there are positive relationships between quality early learning and child care, parental labour market participation and child development outcomes. For Indigenous children and families, culturally appropriate programs that take into account the unique cultures, traditions, values and customs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities can be crucial in creating a foundation for a child's cultural identity and sense of worth.

The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$7.5 billion over eleven years to create more high-quality affordable child care spaces across the country. More accessible and less costly child care will help all children get a better start in life, help parents who want to return to work, and support families by reducing the burden of child care costs.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments agreed on a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework on June 12, 2017. The Framework sets the foundation for governments to work toward a shared long-term vision, where

all children across Canada can experience the enriching environment of quality early learning and child care. The federal government has entered into three-year (2017-18 to 2019-20) bilateral agreements with each province and territory that outline the unique early learning and child care needs to be addressed within their respective jurisdiction.

The Early Learning and Child Care investments with provinces and territories will lead to the creation of up to 40,000 more affordable child care spaces across the country by March 2020. The Government of Canada is on track to deliver on those results with more than a third of the target achieved in the first year. These investments are important as high-quality early learning and child care provides parents – in particular mothers who are often responsible for the care of young children – with the opportunity to participate in the labour market.

Access to affordable, high-quality child care that is culturally-appropriate is crucial to ensuring First Nations, Inuit and Métis children have the best start in life. To this end, on September 17, 2018, the Government of Canada jointly released the co-developed Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework with the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis National Council. It reflects the unique needs and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework complements the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework.