

# **Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget**

**By: Advancement of Women Halton**



3350 South Service Road Burlington Ontario L7N 3M6

## **List of Recommendations**

- **Recommendation 1:** That the government build a fair, equitable and just social compact
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- **Recommendation 2:** That the government provide funding for a **universal, quality, safe and publicly funded childcare system**



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## **Advancement of Women Halton envisions A New Social Contract**

The pandemic has laid bare just how precarious so much of our social and economic life really is. Also, it has demonstrated how much of what we take for granted depends on a solid foundation of public and community infrastructure in health care, education, child care, communications, public transportation, income security, and safe and secure housing.

We need to build on the best of the old while modernizing our social protections to address our enduring human needs for economic security and for meaningful work. We wish to frame a new social compact for a post-pandemic Canada that is fair, equitable and just. We suggest that the core tenets of this transformation to a new social compact are:

- A strong foundation of human rights that incorporates protections for individuals
- a clear understanding of our collective responsibility to each other, to future generations and to the planet.
- An economy focused on meeting the human needs of everyone rather than satisfying only the more affluent.
- A strengthening of community life and institutions grounded in principles and practices of inclusion, trust, respect for diversity, equality, and social justice.
- An enabling and supportive role for governments in re-creating community and civic life.

One of AWH's core priorities for investment by the Government of Canada is a **universal, quality, safe and publicly funded childcare system**. -Such a system would lessen the inequalities among children created by the social conditions into which they are born, and which shape their journey through life. These supports are essential to mitigate the ravages of systemic racism and child and family poverty across Canada.

Such a system of childcare also has the power to reduce gender inequality in Canada and would heal a historic gap in social policy for women. When the Government of Canada fully recognizes childcare as an essential family support and implements a publicly funded childcare system, this will benefit the employment of women and their contribution to the economy.

It is important to remember that Canada is signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. AWH believes this obligates the Canadian State to develop universal, quality, safe, and publicly funded childcare. In order to meet its commitments to the Convention, the Government of Canada must take leadership by creating a system of childcare services, including national standards, and by committing to long-term investment that will foster a diversity of responsive and flexible local programs reflecting community needs.

Without universal, quality, safe, and publicly funded childcare, there will be no gender equality in Canada and no recovery from the pandemic.