



London
CANADA

March 17, 2021

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
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Ahmed.hussen@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Todd Smith
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON
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Dear Ministers:

I am writing to you on behalf of the City of London to communicate our support for the creation of a National Child Care Framework. I am calling on the Governments of Canada and Ontario to work in partnership to work expediently to create a Framework in light of the essential role affordable, accessible, inclusive and high quality child care will play as part of our national, regional and local community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our community welcomed the Government of Canada's commitment to build a multi-year plan toward a Canada-wide child care system from coast to coast to coast. We know this will require strong partnerships between all orders of government as well as the community to implement effectively. I look forward to additional details in the Government of Canada's upcoming Budget 2021.

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The current COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the important role child care plays for Canadian families. A robust child care system will allow parents to return to work with certainty, precisely when we need it the most. By investing in child care, we are investing in our economic recovery. Numerous economic analyses point out that spending in the child care system can bring powerful economic returns on investment which can generate growth and prosperity during this crucial time. The Conference Board of Canada has reported that every \$1 invested in expanding early childhood education enrolment yields \$6 in long-term economic benefits. Additionally, public and private sector coordination under a National Child Care Framework will support the long-term health and wellbeing of children and families.

Our community is unwavering in our support for children and families. However, we are also deeply concerned for the short and longer-term sustainability of the child care system. Investments in child care can reduce equity gaps in our community that have been amplified by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meaningful investments delivered through a strategic Framework will ensure the essential infrastructure remains available post-pandemic to support our community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while also securing longer-term sustainability for the child care system.

I am sincerely thankful to our federal and provincial partners for the substantial support provided to the City of London and our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Your investments have helped to ensure vital local services continue through these unprecedented times. As all orders of government consider measures that will power our recovery from COVID-19, the City of London is calling on Canada and Ontario to work together to develop and deliver a National Child Care Framework that will ensure affordable, accessible, inclusive and high-quality system for all Canadian children and families.

Thank you for all your ongoing efforts to support our community. I look forward to continuing to work with you to identify ways to support a strong, deep and inclusive recovery for London and our region.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Holder', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Ed Holder
City of London

Cc: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
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The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance Minister.fin@ontario.ca
Kate Young, M.P. (London West) kate.young@parl.gc.ca
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