

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

The Honourable Maryam Monsef
Minister of Status of Women
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

RE: Canadian National Framework for Early-learning and Childcare.

Dear Minister Monsef,

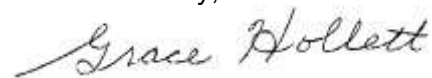
I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), which is a national, non-partisan, voluntary and self-funded organization with over 100 clubs across Canada. With over 8400 members, we work to improve the status of women in Canada and abroad.

CFUW has been advocating for universal, accessible, affordable, publicly-funded childcare in Canada since 1972. As of October 2016, the OECD ranked childcare costs in Canada among the highest in the world and with the lowest accessibility rates. Our clubs have worked tirelessly to rally the voices of children and families around the need for high quality, affordable childcare. We have long called for a national program, in cooperation with all levels of government, to provide nationally regulated and affordable early-learning and childcare.

We welcome the indication of a Canadian national framework for early-learning and childcare. This is the first critical step in addressing the childcare crisis Canada is currently facing. High quality childcare can only exist in the presence of a strong public policy framework. We strongly urge you to ensure that the proposed national framework has robust public funding, public planning and public reporting mechanisms. These elements are essential in providing quality, sustained and accountable childcare services that properly support Canadian children, families and women.

It was an honour for members of the CFUW delegation to meet you in New York on the occasion of the 61st UN Commission of the Status of Women. We look forward to the opportunity of supporting your efforts in early-learning and childcare. Together, we can make Canada a leader in this area.

Yours sincerely,



Grace Hollett
CFUW National President