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## **FAMILIES NEED HELP RIGHT AWAY SAY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

*For Immediate Release*

ONTARIO—August 23, 2021— The Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO), which represents independent licensed child care centres, both commercial and not-for-profit, is urging all federal parties to provide immediate financial help to families. “Our members work with families every single day. A lot of parents still aren’t back on the job full-time or are struggling to cope with inflation at the same time as they’re getting back on their feet after the pandemic,” says Andrea Hannen, executive director. “Those that need non-parental care for their children need help right away, not in two or five years’ time.”

Brenda Burns, board president for the Child Care Providers Resource Network, an Ottawa-based organization that provides resources, training and support for quality-focused home-based child care providers, agrees. “This is not a time for grandiose, multi-year schemes, but rather for practical solutions that are inclusive of all families. The vast majority of families who use non-parental care to look after their children either full- or part-time, use the services of a home-based child care provider. It doesn’t make sense for governments to try and re-engineer these arrangements by only supporting certain kinds of child care and not others. Parents know best.”

Both organizations have expressed concerns about the federal government’s recent budget and its goal of creating a government-directed system of child care across the country. “By focusing solely on centre-based care and trying to push provinces into only allowing growth in the public and not-for-profit sectors, the federal government not only risks excluding hundreds of thousands of Canadian families from accessing supports, but forcing the closure of tens of thousands of woman-owned child care sites run as small businesses,” says Hannen.

The Ontario Federation of Independent Schools, the Alberta Association of Child Care Operators, Child Care Professionals of British Columbia and Embolden PDC which represents home-based child care providers in Alberta, have all endorsed the recommendations in ADCO’s recent submission to the federal government’s 2022 pre-budget planning process. “Our colleagues across the country recognize that it doesn’t make sense to try and replace existing child care facilities at taxpayers’ expense. These are child care spaces that are already up and running, ready to help Canadian parents get back to work,” says Hannen.

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***ADCO is the industry association for Ontario’s independent licensed child care centres. Independent licensed child care centres are those that are not run by public sector entities such as municipalities or school boards, or by large multi-service agencies such as YMCAs. Independent licensed child care centres account for more than a third of Ontario’s licensed child care spaces. Many are small businesses, owned and operated by women.***

For further information, please contact:  
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