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## TRUDEAU CHILD CARE PROGRAM DECREASES CHILD CARE CHOICES FOR PARENTS

*For Immediate Release*

ONTARIO—July 12, 2021— On July 8, 2021, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and the Premier of British Columbia, John Horgan, announced Canada’s first early learning and child care agreement. The amount invested is \$3.2 billion and the statement makes it clear that private daycare operators and the families that rely on them are excluded.

The Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO) has always been in favour of measures that provide parents increased access to child care while respecting their choice as to what type of arrangement they wish to make for their children.

However, yesterday’s announcement shows that the federal government’s program will limit parents' choices, discriminate against commercial licensed child care centres and will certainly result in job losses and the closure of many woman-owned small businesses.

“No, the government doesn't know what's best for parents and children – parents do. This cradle-to-grave interventionist government approach is taking options away from Canadians without consulting them,” said Andrea Hannen, Executive Director at ADCO.

ADCO continues to advocate for measures that put choice in the hands of the parents. As there is no “one-size fits all” approach to child care, a thriving community of diverse options enables parents to find the child care that best fits the needs of their family. This agreement erases many of those options and leaves families with less flexibility.

ADCO recommends that the government “trust parents” and invest its funds directly with parents through measures such as the Canada Child Benefit Program.

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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. While independent licensed child care centres may be run as businesses, not-for-profits or co-ops, their core business is licensed child care. 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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