



news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Universal Child Care Benefit has helped millions of Canadian children since 2006

Miramichi, New-Brunswick, July 23, 2009—More than 2 million Canadian children have benefited from the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) since it was launched in July 2006. This marks the third year that the Government of Canada has been providing choice in child care through the UCCB.

Tilly O'Neill Gordon, Member of Parliament for Miramichi, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, celebrates the third anniversary of the UCCB and other Government of Canada measures that support families, educators and children.

“Federal investments for early childhood development are at the highest level in Canadian history,” said O'Neill Gordon. “Through previous investments, including the UCCB and new measures introduced through the Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada is more committed than ever to supporting families and children.”

.../2

The UCCB provides families with \$100 a month for every child under the age of six. Since the launch of the UCCB three years ago, the Government of Canada has provided approximately \$7.5 billion in direct funding to parents through the benefit. Currently, 1.5 million families receive the UCCB.

The UCCB is the first part of Canada's Universal Child Care Plan, which helps families balance work and home responsibilities. The second part, introduced in Budget 2007, is the provision of an additional \$250 million per year to the provinces and territories to create new child care spaces. In addition, a 25-percent investment tax credit is available for businesses that create new child care spaces in the workplace.

Since 2007, many provinces and territories have announced plans for new child care spaces—over 60,000 so far. Others are investing in enhancing the quality of their spaces, or making child care more affordable. The additional \$250 million is on top of \$850 million that the provinces and territories already receive through the Canada Social Transfer for children's programs and services, for a total of \$1.13 billion this year alone.

For more information and to subscribe to the Universal Child Care Plan electronic newsletter, please visit www.universalchildcare.ca.

This news release is available in alternative formats on request.

For further information (media only):

Michelle Bakos

Press Secretary

Office of Minister Finley

819-994-2482

Media Relations Office

Human Resources and Skills

Development Canada

819-994-5559