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Canada Needs to Step Up On National Child Care Plan

Toronto, ON - Canada must take early childhood education and care more seriously and invest in a national plan that will meet international benchmark standards, according to the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario.

Following the release of a report by UNICEF, *The child care transition: A league table of early childhood education and care in economically advanced countries*, the AECEO called for the federal government to make a much greater commitment to early childhood education and care.

“Canada’s score of one out of 10 benchmarks met is an embarrassment and we are failing our children,” said Eduarda Sousa, executive director of the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario.

“Our federal government needs to implement a national plan that increases the availability of quality education and care for children from birth to age six. Canada’s early childhood professionals are ready and willing to step up to the plate and be a part of the development of a national plan that will ensure an even playing field for all children.”

Sousa pointed to UNICEF’s report in noting that there is a staggering return on investment when a country is committed to quality early childhood education and care.

“Canada has yet to understand the importance of this sector, particularly as we face serious economic challenges. The answer to a healthy economic future is staring us in the face. A responsible government would react, and react quickly.”

The Association of Early Childhood Educators (AECEO) is a voluntary professional association that represents the interests of Early Childhood Educators across the province.

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