



PRIVATE CHILD CARE OPERATORS SAY THE NDP DAYCARE POLICY IS CREATING UNCERTAINTY

EDMONTON, AB (May 8, 2018): The Alberta Association of Child Care Operators (AACCO), today, called on the NDP government to explicitly state whether their mandate for affordable child care will include increasing the current subsidy threshold and subsidy rates for parents.

The government's \$25-a-day pilot project was recently expanded to include 100 centres, in addition to the 22 centres already in operation. To date, only non-profit centres have been included in the program, creating uncertainty for private child care centres across Alberta.

"This \$25-a-day policy is going to have the opposite effect if Alberta's licensed private child care operators are excluded from it. If only non-profits are allowed to participate, you will see many private centres shut down, ultimately leading to less badly-needed child-care spaces," Leon Comer said. "Parents need affordable child care, however, targeting non-profits alone will not achieve this. There are just as many, if not more, private operators in this province and parents should have the ability to choose the child care provider that best suits their needs and not just because they are a \$25-a-day program."

Comer said Alberta's private child care operators feel the government is picking winners and losers and fear being pitted against non-profits due to poorly-thought-out government policy. "Child care operators – both private and non-profit – have been treated equally by the government in the past and we are seeing a dramatic shift in that treatment."

He said that there is a simple solution to affordable child care which would help all parents that need it most: "Increasing the current subsidy rates and the threshold for subsidy eligibility will provide affordability and accessibility to more parents than the government's \$25-a-day program and will allow parents a greater choice in their child care provider."

"Subsidy rates haven't increased one penny since 2012. They haven't even increased commensurate with inflation. This government has said it wants to make childcare more affordable for parents, but private childcare operators have yet to see a single policy come into effect that helps parents attending their centres," Comer said. "This issue is far too important to get wrong. Alberta's parents and children are depending on this government to get it right."

Background:

The AACCO is a member-driven association for Alberta's private licensed child care operators.

The AACCO was established in Edmonton in 2018.

More information about the AACCO and its mandate can be obtained at www.aacco.ca

To arrange an interview please contact:

Leon Comer
AACCO Spokesperson
aacco.ab@gmail.com
587.983.8139