

NDP announces new national child care plan

“As Prime Minister, I’ll deliver for you and your kids”

TORONTO, Sept 17/08 – Today, New Democrats’ Leader Jack Layton announced that as Prime Minister, he would begin building a comprehensive national child care plan that will provide good quality, affordable child care spaces across the country.

“I believe that high quality public child care will be as important to building Canada in the 21st century, as Medicare was in the last century,” said Layton.

The New Democrat leader blasted Prime Minister Harper, pointing out that “not a single child care space has been created by the Harper Conservatives.”

“Everyday, families across our country struggle to find good quality child care they can afford; they shouldn’t have to worry whether they can pay the bill at the end of the month,” said Layton.

“We will work with the provinces in a careful, step-by-step fashion to build the affordable spaces your families need,” said Layton. “We’re committing to invest \$1.45 billion dollars in the first year and as finances permit we’ll steadily build on that funding until the program is fully phased in.”

The plan calls for an initial 150,000 spaces, with the longer term goal of a space for every child needing one.

“Canadian families deserve a Prime Minister who will stand up for you and your children, not for giving away billions of dollars in corporate tax cuts,” said Layton.

“Canada can’t afford not to invest in our children.”