

EMAIL SENT TO "THE HOUSE" - CBC RADIO'S TOP FEDERAL POLITICAL PROGRAMME - IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RESPONSES TO BUDGET DISCUSSION

MARCH 3, 2018

Hello:

Re: the budget

With feminism like this who needs patriarchy?

I am a single low income mother. Like the vast majority of parents including single parents, I have never used and will never use government funded daycare "spaces". I prefer parental child care for numerous reasons.

I work in the GDP and non-GDP sectors - mostly the latter.

All work is work.

But not for the government, nor for CBC apparently.

We are outraged at the misogynistic policies and statements about "getting mothers back to work" - what exactly do they/you think we are doing? - and the false assumption that "child care" means non-parental care.

As I listen this morning to the show I hear it again from the host, Minister Morneau and guest Laurel Rothman, a long time lobbyist for more money for non-parental institutional child care. This is the second time in 2 days that I have heard her on CBC radio.

Nowadays, voices that do not seek more money for licensed daycare are not heard on CBC except in the call-in segments. This is obvious bias in coverage.

These policies and statements attack women, and perpetuate negative stereotypes about women, mothers and especially about single mothers and our children.

We are told that we are not working, not contributing, not productive if we do not have full time jobs - any job will do, and not the best people to provide child care for our own children. We are assumed to be incapable of making "appropriate" decisions for our lives and therefore it is considered necessary to subject us to coercive policies to bully/incentivize us into behaving in the prescribed manner.

We are told that we and our children are better off when we do full time jobs - any job - and they are in daycare centre spaces - any "regulated space" is assumed to be better for children and parents.

"Licensed" child care is falsely assumed to assure high quality.

This is demonstrably false, offensive, discriminatory, derisive, insulting and harmful to women, mothers, children and especially single mothers and our children who are targeted for behaviour modification.

These policies and pronouncements violate our and our children's Charter rights to equality, liberty, security of person. They offend our human dignity. We are to be treated as GDP fodder for corporations,

daycare centres and tax coffers. The policies foster a climate of contempt for women - especially single mothers - who for many diverse reasons do not prefer to do full time jobs and put our children in full time daycare from birth.

The policies and pronouncements signal to all that it is OK to coerce and dis-value us, our choices and our parental child care work.

This climate of contempt encourages our partners/ex-partners, etc to similarly coerce, dis-value, abuse, and silence us for preferring non-GDP-counted work over full time jobs. They will help fulfill the clear mandate for us from the government.

CBC has given large amounts of publicly funded air time to these discriminatory voices and their non-peer reviewed publications of various groups lobbying for more money for non-parental child care, and virtually none at all to the voices of women who do not follow/prefer the prescribed agenda or to those who could best present the related data and peer-reviewed research. CBC has silenced us and allowed much false information, misleading information and discriminatory statements to go unchallenged by knowledgeable voices that could reduce the extreme bias in the discussion.

I am available for comment on CBC and have, in the past, been a guest on these issues.

All the best,

Helen Ward

President

Kids First Parent Association of Canada

www.kidsfirstcanada.org

604-291-0088