

## **KIDS FIRST PARENT ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

### **POSITION ON CHILD CARE, RIGHTS, WORK, GENDER EQUITY, GDP**

Currently government discriminates against parental child care in favour of non-parental child care especially daycare centres by heavily subsidizing that form of care.

Kids First position:

#### **CHILD CARE**

- that 'child care' is defined as 'the care of a child'.
- that every child needs child care 24/7/365 until an age determined by the child's parents.
- that current child care policies (Child Care Expense Deduction) define child care to include all children under 16.
- that there should be no preferential treatment for any form of child care.
- that all child care funding should 'follow the child' ('fund the child', 'fund the family') and flow to parents directly so they can freely choose the form(s) of care best suited to their situation(s).
- that daycare regulations (especially staff:child ratios) must ensure 'the best interests of the child' and be based on empirical peer-reviewed evidence to ensure that children's well-being is not compromised.

#### **RIGHTS**

- that current federal, provincial, and many municipal government policies on child care violate women's, parents, and children's rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (sections 2,7,15), Canadian and provincial human rights laws, and international human rights agreements.

#### **WORK**

- that child care is work whoever does it including parents.
- there are no 'stay at home' parents.
- that child care work is costly and socially essential whoever does it.

#### **GENDER EQUITY**

- that 'gender equity' has displaced 'women's liberation' and 'women's equality'.
- that 'gender equity' is a concept that is harmful to women and society as it is based on measures which ignore data on women's actual preferences and well-being in favour of a non-democratic, technocratic goal of 50% female or 'female self-identified' participation in selected activities, labour supply, and GDP sector employment.

#### **GDP**

- that women's equality and liberation will not be achieved until family care work is not discriminated against in favour of GDP-counted waged work.
- that the GDP and GDP growth is not a measure of economic production, progress, benefit, well-being, or 'the good'.
- that the GDP is a measure which is inherently discriminatory to unwaged essential family care work and to those who provide and receive this care.
- that the GDP needs to be replaced or at least supplemented and balanced by measures that recognize the worth, contribution, and production of beneficial goods and services that are unwaged/uncommodified.