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MEDIA RELEASE

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On The Eve of National Child Day, Decision Makers Are Called Upon To Make Children a Priority Canada ranks last in investing in child care services

Vancouver – As the federal government prepares to recognize National Child Day on November 20, 2011, Canada continues to rank last for investing in quality child care services for children under the age of 6, in spite of having the second highest child care fees amongst OECD countries.

“The current system simply does not support families with high quality, accessible and affordable funding for childcare in this country,” said Emily Mliczko, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC). Mliczko added, “Licensed child care facilities serve over 95,000 children daily in BC, proving to be the largest support for our province’s young children and families. It is imperative that increased and sustainable funding for licensed child care centres be a priority for decision makers.”

ECEBC sees much to improve with the federal and BC governments’ position. “The federal government has signed on to international treaties committing to honour the right to child care,” said Mliczko. “This commitment means that our governments need to provide funding for quality, licensed child care programs staffed by well educated and fairly paid professionals, fund child care so that it is affordable for all families, and implement strong family policies with extended parental leave, income supports and family support services.”