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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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Child care cheques are in the mail

— Canada's new government delivers on choice in child care —

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2006

SASKATOON – Canada's New government is delivering on another promise – Canada's first truly Universal Child Care Plan. Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott reminds parents that their first monthly payments under the new Universal Child Care Plan are being mailed out this week.

The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, and the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, yesterday supervised the print production of the first Universal Child Care Benefit cheques at separate events in Winnipeg and Quebec City.

Vellacott said, "Our plan is rooted in the belief that when it comes to child care, the best role for government is to trust parents and let them choose what's right for their children. We understand that Canadians must balance their work and family lives in different ways, for different reasons."

"Canada's New Government is delivering choice, support and spaces through the country's first Universal Child Care Plan," Vellacott added. "Watch your mailbox because the first Universal Child Care Benefit cheques are being mailed this week to parents of children under six years old across Canada."

The Conservative government's Universal Child Care Plan includes:

- A Universal Child Care Benefit of \$1,200 per year paid directly to parents for each child under six,
- The Child Care Spaces Initiative to support the creation of new child care spaces that meet the real needs of families across Canada.

The Universal Child Care Benefit will be paid to families in monthly installments of \$100 for each child under six. It is estimated that 1.6 million families will receive the Universal Child Care Benefit on behalf of a total of 2.1 million children under the age of six.

Beginning in 2007, the Government of Canada will also spend \$250 million each year to create up to 25,000 new child care spaces annually.

More than 90 percent of Canadian parents who are already registered for the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) will automatically receive the Universal Child Care Benefit cheques. Parents who do not receive the CCTB can register to receive the \$1,200 per year Universal child Care Benefit by visiting www.universalchildcare.ca or by calling Vellacott's constituency office at 975-4725 or long distance, 1-888-844-8886. Parents who register after July 2006 will be eligible to receive retroactive payments for up to 11 months.

"For too long, Canadian families have been given vague promises of a national child care plan," Vellacott said. "Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised a plan to provide parents with choice through direct child care support for their children under age six, and today Canada's New Government is delivering on that promise."

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For further information, call (613) 992-1966 or (306) 975-4725