



THE CASE FOR UNIVERSAL, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

Without universal access to affordable, high-quality child care, women's equality cannot be a reality.

IT OPENS UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN



In Alberta, women's employment lags behind men's, and women are twice as likely to work part-time compared to men. At home, they do twice the amount of unpaid work.

Lack of access to affordable, quality child care is a key barrier to women finding and keeping work. Low-fee care accessible to all would open up opportunities for women to improve their economic security, while better balancing work and family.

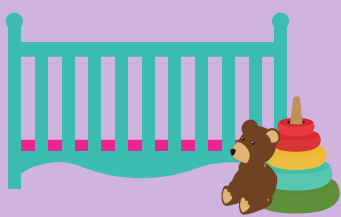
IT REDUCES POVERTY



One in six children living with a female lone parent experiences poverty, compared to 1 in 20 children who grow up with two parents.

Better access to affordable, quality child care would allow lone mothers who live in poverty to look for or return to work and take part in education and training, so they can build better futures for themselves and their children.

IT BENEFITS CHILDREN



The early years of childhood are recognized as crucial for the development of cognitive and social abilities. High-quality child care enhances children's development and well-being and provides a foundation for life-long learning.

Ensuring access to high-quality care for *all* families would lead to better and more equitable outcomes for children.

IT BENEFITS OUR COMMUNITIES



When parents have access to affordable, quality child care, they can find and keep work, study, get training, and improve their family's economic situation while better balancing work and family.

Every dollar spent in early education has a \$2-\$7 return on investment over the long term. **An investment in child care is an investment in better outcomes for women, children, and whole communities.**