



12 April 2023

Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier and President of Executive Council
Office of the Premier
Executive Branch
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
premier@gov.ab.ca

RE: \$60 million cut to Child Care funding

Dear Premier Smith;

As you know, child care is a great resource for Alberta's workers with children. Some families simply cannot afford for one parent to stay home and look after the kids. Affordable and available child care allows both parents to fully participate in the workforce.

Quality affordable child care could also potentially be beneficial for the child. It can promote children's physical, psychological, and emotional development.

I read with interest in your 2023 Budget that more than 55,000 Alberta children receive the child care subsidy, which is more than double of the previous year. That's great news for Alberta's working families.

However, during Estimates debate it became clear that the UCP government underspent on child care. NDP MLA Rakhi Pancholi confirmed, through the Deputy Minister of Children's Services, that \$350 million was earmarked for child care in the last budget, but \$290 million was spent. That's a cut of \$60 million.



Rightly or wrongly, I think it's fair to say most Albertans think Prime Minister Justin Trudeau supports Alberta child care more than the UCP.

Premier, Alberta's child care system needs your full support. About 4,000 early childhood educators left the industry during the pandemic and never came back. In 2021 these workers earned an average wage of \$18.56 an hour, or \$33,500 a year. It's important work and the people who do it deserve pay that shows its importance.

I urge you to recognize the importance of our child care system and the people who work in it. I urge you to properly fund the system and give early childhood educators a raise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gil McGowan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gil McGowan
President
Alberta Federation of Labour