



A Message from **Michelle Simson, M.P.** **Scarborough Southwest**



Lack of funding for child care spaces hurts working Canadian families

OTTAWA - The Conservatives' lack of a real child care plan is hurting Canadian families who rely on quality, affordable and accessible child care spaces to make ends meet, Liberal Human Resources and Skills Development Critic Mike Savage said today.

"Today marks the third anniversary of the cancellation of 10 provincial agreements signed by the previous Liberal government on early learning and child care in Canada," said Mr. Savage. "All of these agreements, along with the five billion dollars of long-term stable funding to create quality, affordable and accessible spaces, were abandoned.

"In three years, this government has still not implemented a dedicated funding plan for child care spaces. The Conservatives claim to have brought in 'choice in child care' but as every parent knows, no spaces mean no choices," he said.

The City of Toronto announced this week it may be forced to cut as many as 6,000 child care spaces - almost a quarter of all subsidized spaces in Toronto - due to a shortfall in funding.

Mr. Savage pointed to the Conservatives' 2006 election promise to create 250,000 new child care spaces – spaces which have yet to materialize.

"At a time when Canadians are worried about their jobs, the Conservatives are only making it more difficult for families to get by," said Mr. Savage. "Investing in child care is an investment in Canadian families. Working families desperately need quality, affordable child care spaces. It's time this government starts taking early learning and child care seriously," he said.

BACKGROUND

In the 2007 Budget, the Harper government allocated \$4.335 billion to infrastructure for the 2007-08 fiscal year (Budget 2007, Table 5.3, p. 167). Of this, the GST rebate for municipalities accounts for approximately \$715 million, leaving \$3.62 billion remaining for infrastructure programming.

However, Infrastructure Canada's Departmental Performance Report for 2007-08 notes that only \$1.9 billion in infrastructure funding actually made it out the door that year, and only did so via previously committed funding through Liberal-created programs,

Here is the list of Liberal-created programs that actually delivered to Canada's cities and communities:

- Gas Tax Fund (GTF) delivered \$778 million;
- Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) delivered \$922 million;
- Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) delivered \$145 million; and,
- Border Infrastructure Fund (BIF) delivered \$70 million.

Here is the list of how well Conservative programs performed in 2007-08 according to the same report:

- Building Canada Fund planned spending 2007-08: \$572 million. Actual expenditure: zero.
- Fund for gateways and border crossings planned spending 2007-08: \$137 million. Actual expenditure: zero.
- Fund for P3 projects planned spending 2007-08: \$82 million. Actual expenditure: zero.
- Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative planned spending 2007-08: \$108 million. Actual expenditure: \$40 million.
- Equal per jurisdiction planned spending 2007-08: \$325 million. Actual expenditure: zero.



You are cordially invited to attend a complimentary
brunch to celebrate

International Women's Day
Hosted by
Michelle Simson, M.P.

Scarborough Southwest

Special guest speaker

Hon. Kathleen Wynne,

Minister of Education

Date: Sunday, March 8th 2009

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: Second Base Youth Shelter
702 Kennedy Road, Scarborough
(South of Eglinton)

**Admissions by RSVP only, please contact:
Tel: 416.261.8613**

You and your family are cordially
invited to attend

***Michelle Simson MP's
Family Ice Skate***

Please bring your skates, helmets, dress
warmly, and be prepared for a lot of fun
for the whole family.

Date: Wednesday, March 18th 2009

Time: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Scarborough Arena Gardens
75 Birchmount Road (at Kingston Road)



Students looking for volunteer hours in the community:

<http://michellesimsonmp.ca/volunteer.php>