

The Catholic Women's League of Canada **Position Paper on** **Child Care**

The members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada uphold the traditional values of the family: mother, father and children within the bonds of matrimony. Indeed, children are the supreme gift of marriage and greatly contribute to the good of the parents themselves.

We affirm the dignity and role of motherhood and fatherhood, recognizing parent(s) as the prime nurturer(s) and educator(s) of their children. We are also cognizant of the single parent striving to fulfil the role of both father and mother.

Families today face the dilemma of caring for their children as a valid career choice or balancing a work career with the care of their children.

Regardless of the choice made, all families are likely to need help in caring for their children at some time or other. Three basic statements reflect the League's position on child care.

- Caring for one's own children is a valid and valuable career choice and should be recognized as a legitimate occupation.
- The need for supplemental child care should be reduced by a variety of policies which could enable parents to spend more time with their children if they so wish (extended maternity leave, shorter work hours, job sharing, tax benefits).
- The need for supplemental child care should be addressed by a variety of adequate choices (quality child care, in-home care, neighbours and kin, employers child care).

Supplemental child care for Canadians should be guided by four important goals.

1. **Quality care** – the parent is involved in determining environment; trained and skilled care givers receiving adequate compensation and recognition
2. **Comprehensive child care system** – offering parents real flexibility and choice in their child care decisions
3. **Equitable access** – family access to quality care regardless of location, family income or parental employment status
4. **Public accountability** – that public monies buy quality care and support for children and families

The well-being of the family is important to our society. The family will be strengthened by appropriate child care while parents are at work. The future of our country depends on the best care for our children today.

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National Convener of Laws

February 1988