

**For immediate release**

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**Early learning and child care:  
Funding and action plan welcome,  
educators' salaries must improve.**

**Moncton** – The New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity welcomes the three-year bilateral agreement on early learning and child care signed on Wednesday by the federal and provincial governments.

“We receive this announcement very positively. It’s time to invest in a true child care system,” says Frances Leblanc, the Chair of the Coalition. “Several reported elements have the potential to help make the transition from a market-based child care system to an accessible, affordable and publicly managed child care system, for which we have been asking for years. ”

The Coalition wants the government to consider the need for fair wages for child care staff. "Research shows that the quality of services depends on educators. A fair wage is essential to the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel, "explains Frances LeBlanc.

The New Brunswick Child Care Sector Task Force recommends that the salaries of child care educators reflect their level of certification as well as the principles of pay equity.

The Coalition Chair notes that pay equity is a fundamental human right. “Educators have a right to pay equity. They deserve wages equal to those who have a job predominantly held by men of equal value.

"We look forward the ongoing process and we are ready to contribute our expertise to the development of a child care system that meets the needs of New Brunswickers," concludes Frances LeBlanc.

Comprised of about 800 individual members and 89 organizations, the Coalition for Pay Equity educates and advocates for the adoption and implementation of adequate legislation to achieve pay equity for all workers in both the public and private sectors.

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