

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 19, 2008

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## Alberta Liberals to boost wages for child care workers

Edmonton – The Alberta Liberals Action Plan for Child Care will boost wages for child care workers by 15 to 30 per cent, depending on the worker’s level. This is the best way to relieve the crippling labour shortage plaguing daycare centres across the province. The Alberta Liberals released their plan in Edmonton today.

No extra costs will be passed along to parents or centres; provincial funding will offset the higher wages. The plan also calls for increasing the number of total child care spaces in the province and creating child care training incentives to increase the long-term supply of workers.

“Child care workers in Alberta do wonderful work with our children,” said Alberta Liberal Leader Kevin Taft. “Many families rely on them—that means our economy depends on them.”

“Their work is very demanding and badly underpaid. That’s why centres have such a hard time finding and retaining staff. The labour crisis affecting child care operators is the first thing we need to fix. We can’t add new child care spaces if we can’t find the extra workers.”

The Alberta Liberal plan will help child care centres recruit and retain more qualified staff, as well as making careers in child care more attractive to recent graduates.

Taft noted that many parents in Alberta are forced to stop working due to long waiting lists or unaffordable costs for daycare, which contributes to the overall labour shortage in the province.

Under the action plan for child care, the Alberta Liberals will immediately:

- Increase wages for child care staff to help centres recruit and retain staff.
- Forgive student loans for those who remain in Alberta as child care workers three years after graduating.
- Increase start-up and operational funding for accredited child care operators.
- Provide specialized financial assistance to centres that offer infant and toddler care.

The Tory child care plan, released last week, calls for tax cuts to create new spaces and temporary foreign workers, but Taft said it won’t work.

“In Ed Stelmach’s fantasy world, tiny tax cuts will magically create 14,000 new child care spaces, and temporary foreign workers will fill underpaid positions no one else wants. Child care in Alberta is stuck in a deep, deep hole, and Ed Stelmach’s government did the digging. It’s time to stop the neglect — we need to get to work. The Alberta Liberals have a real plan for child care,” Taft said.

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**It's time.**  
**AlbertaLiberal**