



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 11, 2021  
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### **YMCA of Saskatoon ECE Appreciation and Early Learning**

Saskatoon, SK: As Saskatoon's largest non-profit child care provider, the YMCA of Saskatoon would like to recognize ECE (early child educators) appreciation day along with the announcement in April regarding the Federal Budget. We applaud the federal government for making significant, permanent investments in early learning and child care, including the announcement of \$30 billion over the next five years. This is a pivotal step forward to creating a pan-Canadian child care system that is high-quality, accessible, affordable, and inclusive for families!

We welcome opportunities to strengthen and grow the essential workforce of qualified early childhood educators. Additional supports for ongoing training and professional development are another positive step in building a well-recognized professional labour force. This is the power of well trained and qualified ECE's that we would like to recognize today and every day.

"Lower fees and greater access to non-profit, licensed child care will help children access quality programs that support their growth and wellbeing, and provide parents, particularly mothers, with the capacity and confidence to return to work," says Peter Dinsdale, President and CEO, YMCA Canada. "We also need to recognize that with this new effort to provide sustainable care for our children, we will need to have the appropriate staffing levels kept up to a high grade and to continue to make the environment a positive experience for all our workers" says Dean Dodge, CEO, YMCA of Saskatoon.

The YMCA is ready to help build our strong communities, connect people when they need it most, and offer programs and service to enable our communities to live healthy, active lives. This is just an example of that focus and dedication to the community.

At the start of every and end of each day, our ECE's provide families with peace of mind, connections and a knowledge that their children are supported in a caring, knowledgeable and thoughtful way each and every day. Thank you to all ECE staff in our community and the YMCA of Saskatoon Child Development Centres.

During these unprecedented times, the YMCA remains committed to building healthy communities through programs like these. As a charity, the Y needs help, now more than ever, to continue to serve our communities with innovative and necessary initiatives. Visit [www.ymcasaskatoon.org/donate](http://www.ymcasaskatoon.org/donate) to donate and help the YMCA continue to respond to the needs of our community.