

**Petition in Support of Early Childhood Development in Saskatchewan**

*To the Honourable Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in legislature assembled:*

*The petition of the undersigned citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly showeth:*

That it is well-known that inadequate access to quality and affordable child care is a major road block for parents who want to access the labour market or further their own education, and;

That Premier Wall has called the labour shortage a “crisis”, and;

That investment in quality childcare delivers significant economic and social dividends to a region; and,

That the Sask Party received 7.5 million dollars from the federal government in the 2007-2008 federal budget for childcare spaces and even at this time of crisis it is not spending this in entirety, and;

That the Sask Party Government has billions of surplus dollars available to them, and;

That as a province we risk squandering important social and economic benefits of this current booming economy without significant creation of new child care spaces, and;

That today too many Saskatchewan families are struggling or are unable to find quality child care for their children and this limits their futures.

**Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honorable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government, through consultation with the childcare community, to immediately invest in growing the capacity of the early childcare community to enable new childcare spaces, this investment must include: infrastructure funding for new facilities and expansion; funding to significantly increase the number of early childhood diploma and certificate training seats; and, funding to ensure that the sector is able to increase its’ wages and benefits to attract and retain needed personnel.**

*And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.*

NAME                                      ADDRESS                                      SIGNATURE                                      DATE

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