

## **Budget Fails to Balance Women's Lives**

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Federal Budget doesn't support the lives of the majority of women today, says YWCA Canada

### **21 April 2015**

The federal government's balanced budget fails to balance women's lives, says YWCA Canada, the country's oldest and largest women's multi-service organization, in response to Budget 2015. Women make up the majority of Canada's population. Workforce participation rates are high for women of all ages, and especially for mothers with young children.

"This budget fails to balance the lives of women in Canada," says YWCA CEO Paulette Senior. "Women continue to provide the majority of child care, despite comprising half the workforce and being the majority of university graduates. That trifecta is the 21<sup>st</sup> century reality for families, and affordable child care is the winning ticket. We are sorry to see the federal government's continued disinterest in leading on this issue."

Affordable child care increases women's access to the workforce and decreases women's poverty. Over the first 12 years of low-cost child care in Quebec, the number of single mothers on social assistance dropped from 99,000 to 45,000 and the after-tax median income of single mothers rose by 81%.

"Don and Betty Draper don't need a tax cut," says Ann Decter, YWCA Canada's Director of Advocacy and Public Policy. "The estimated \$2-billion-a-year that the Family Tax Cut will cost the federal government would be better spent on stimulating a national child care system or decreasing violence against women. Those are all investments in the reality of women's lives today."

YWCA Canada is pleased that the federal government will amend the *Corporations Act* to promote women on boards of public companies following the Ontario government's lead.

For an interview with:

- Ann Decter, on site at the Railway Room, Centre Block post-budget or 416-275-0443.
- Paulette Senior, CEO, YWCA Canada, contact Laura Tilley, Communications & Marketing Manager at 416.962.8881 x 233.

About YWCA Canada:

YWCA Canada is the country's oldest and largest women's multi-service organization, with 32 Member Associations across the country serving women and girls in nine provinces and two territories. For more information visit [www.ywcacanada.ca](http://www.ywcacanada.ca), find us on Twitter [@YWCA\\_Canada](https://twitter.com/YWCA_Canada) or at [www.facebook.com/ywcacanada](http://www.facebook.com/ywcacanada).

