



Ms. Barbara DuMoulin, President CFUW BC Council, bdumoulin@telus.net

October 3, 2018

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, online submission

Re: Recommendations for Reducing Poverty by Improving BC/x Early Childhood Benefit

Dear Members of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services:

As President of CFUW BC Council, I am writing in support of First Call's recommendations to enhance BC's current early childhood tax benefit to more effectively reach poor, children-supporting households. Of the provinces offering a child benefit, BC is the only one that cuts off the benefit for parents with children over the age of six. Every other province that offers this benefit extends it to families with children up to the age of 18. Enhancements to this government benefit would include both the majority of poor children in BC who live with parents in paid work, and those relying on social assistance.

In light of the BC government's commitment to reducing poverty, we strongly support the following recommendations:

- 1) Redesign the BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit into a BC Child Benefit that covers children under 18, increase the maximum benefit to \$1,320 per child per year and index it annually to the cost of living.
- 2) Ensure that households with an annual net income of up to \$80,000 receive the full, increased child benefit and phase out the benefit for households with annual net incomes above \$100,000.

CFUW BC Council is comprised of clubs in twenty-one communities across British Columbia. Our organization of approximately 1800 women and students is non-partisan and totally member-funded. Our policies are developed through resolutions presented and voted on by all member clubs at annual general meetings.

We are part of the Canadian Federation of University Women founded in 1919 that has more than 8,000 members, in clubs in every province. CFUW is the largest affiliate of GWI (Graduate Women International). Both organizations have special consultative status at the United Nations.

Thank you for including this submission in the consultation to the 2019 Budget.

Sincerely,

Barbara DuMoulin,

President, CFUW BC Council

cc by email:

Honourable John Horgan, the Premier

Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier

Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Sirley Bond and Tracy Redies, Finance

Laurie Throness, Children and Family Development

Marvin Hunt, Social Development and poverty Reductiion