

Ottawa Journal by David tilson MP ? Canada Child Benefit ? A disappointment for too many Canadian families

The previous Conservative government always made hard-working Canadian families a priority.

It did this by consistently delivering considerable tax relief to families in every budget since forming government in 2006. This was done through measures such as establishing and expanding the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB); enacting the Family Tax Cut; increasing the annual Childcare Expense Deduction Limit; introducing and doubling the Children's Fitness Tax Credit; and establishing the Children's Art Tax Credit. Sadly, the current Liberal government cancelled all of these initiatives and recently began rolling out its Canada Child Benefit (CCB), which fails to provide far too many families with the financial support they require when they need it most.

In July, Canadian families received their first CCB cheque. The current Liberal government claims this new benefit, ?puts more money in the pockets of nine out of 10 families, and helps them with the high costs of raising children.? The current government has also said, ?The CCB is simpler, tax-free, and better targeted to those who need it most. More support means more opportunities for middle-class Canadians to save, invest, and grow the Canadian economy.?

Unfortunately, many Canadian families aren't going to receive the support they need because the new CCB, unlike the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), which provided stable support to all Canadian families, is based on your previous year's income.

The current Liberal government has failed to take into account those Canadians who have been laid off in the last six months or had their hours reduced won't qualify for the maximum benefit this year, regardless of the fact that their families are struggling to make ends meet. Canadians looking for work, families struggling to pay for childcare or extracurricular activities, and parents trying to save for their children's futures won't receive the support they need. They deserve better from their government.

In addition to the cancellation of the previous Conservative government's tax relief measures, the current Liberal government's planned tax hikes, including the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), which will put hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk and do nothing to help the seniors who need it, are already going to reduce the take-home pay of middle-income Canadians. It is, therefore, difficult for many Canadian families to understand how the new CCB will put money back into their pockets as the current government claims it will do.

The Conservative Opposition believes in supporting all Canadian families and ensuring they're able to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on their priorities. Canadians expect their government to work hard for them and we will continue to be a strong and effective voice for families in Parliament to hold the current Liberal government accountable.

