



Edmonton Sun: Canadians want their kids at home ; Poll disputes government action

Published October 7, 2013 Also published in the *Winnipeg Sun*, the *Ottawa Sun* and the *North Bay Nugget*
By Daniel Proussalidis

OTTAWA -- If politicians think plowing tax dollars into "professional" child care is what Canadians want, the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada (IMFC) says they're wrong.

"The majority of educated Canadians still believe the best place for a child under six is at home with a parent," said IMFC executive director Andrea Mrozek, after releasing child care polling data exclusively to QMI Agency.

A previous poll showed Canadians largely favoured at-home care for kids, but Mrozek says the results also hold up when broken down by education level.

Seventy-eight percent of respondents with at least a high school diploma agreed that it's best for a child to be at home with mom or dad instead of some other caregiver.

Support for the home option rose to 80% for those who had some university education, but dropped to 68% for university grads and 62% for those who had a postgraduate degree.

If staying home with a parent isn't possible, Mrozek says most poll respondents would choose a relative or neighbour to take care of junior.

She says that's a message for provincial and federal politicians.

"Stop preferentially funding day care centres, which is what our public policy almost across the board does," said Mrozek.

Less than one-third of those with post-graduate or undergraduate degrees chose day cares as the best option for kids.

Support for that option sinks to just 16% for high school grads.

The Abingdon Research poll of 2,022 Canadians in January has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

1912 – 130 rue Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5G4
T 613.565.3832 f/t 613.565.3803 1.866.373.4632

www.imfcanada.org