cfuw fcfdu THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER LA PUISSANCE AU FÉMININ: ENSEMBLE POUR RÉUSSIR.

For Immediate Release:

Federal Budget 2017: CFUW Responds

OTTAWA, March 27, 2017 – On Wednesday March 22, 2017, Trudeau's government unveiled its second federal budget, which included a much anticipated gender-based analysis. Investments in social infrastructure and housing and commitments to childcare and continuing education were cornerstones of this budget and mark a welcomed step towards addressing gender inequalities in Canada.

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 CFUW Clubs, located in every province across Canada. CFUW was looking to the Budget 2017 as a decisive moment to ensure universally affordable and accessible childcare in Canada and put gender equality on the forefront of the 2017 Agenda.

Budget 2017 promises new investment in the care economy - child and elder, increased flexibility in maternity and parental benefits, a sustained and reinforced commitment to Indigenous Peoples, youth and climate change, additional support for re-training, education and skills development, and a significant investment in social infrastructure and affordable housing. These investments work together to create an economy that is better suited to the address the realities of Canadian women.

In particular, new investments in the care economy, including $7 billion over 10 years in Early-learning and Childcare and a new Caregiver Benefit, will reduce women's burden of unpaid care work, increase their access to education and provide them with better economic opportunities. Women shoulder a disproportionate share of the care burden and as a result are forced into low-paying and precarious employment.

Nevertheless, the proposed investments in childcare will respond to less than 10% of the childcare needs across Canada; proposed changes to parental and maternity benefits do little to support low-income families; no measures were taken to address poverty among senior women; and no steps were taken to address regressive tax measures that negatively impact women. Much more needs to be done in order to better support Canadian women.

The 2017 Budget is a step in the right direction, but falls short in providing the comprehensive supports needed to ensure the Canadian government is addressing the long standing and systemic gender inequality in Canada. CFUW remains committed to working with the Government to further the advances made in this gender-based analysis budget.

To read CFUW's full budget response, click here.

For further information, contact:
Robin Jackson, Executive Director, Canadian Federation of University Women, 613-234-8353 ext. 106, executivedirector@fcfdu.org