

COALITION OF CHILD CARE ADVOCATES OF BC
CHIARPERSON'S REPORT
AGM
APRIL 9, 2008

My granddaughter, Mikaela, chose to do her history project this year about the Coalition. For me, she is an inspiring young advocate - she has created a website to connect kids to the Coalition and to inspire them to use their voice and to make a difference in the world. Proud grandmother aside, Mikaela taught me two things with her project. The first is that the Coalition is now old enough to be considered for a history project!! The second thing was her title: CCCABC Changing the World One Diaper at a Time! A good play on words, for sure, but it made me think: that while we may not have actually been changing diapers, we have been changing opinions throughout this province and country – one person at a time. The truth in our vision is now being seen through a variety of lenses, economic, educational, women's rights and is gathering political power. If you are a politician today and you don't know about child care – you are in big trouble.

As an organization we continue to evolve, from the kitchen table that was mostly Lower Mainland based, to many, many kitchen tables across the province – tables that have earned respect, power and inclusion in their communities. Person to person, we have taken our movement to a higher place – at last we come from a position of strength with wide community support. We are ready and able to facilitate the implementation of our vision. We have many hurdles yet to jump, rivers to cross and mountains to climb. But together we will do it.

During the past year we continued to write letters, create petitions, meet with politicians and send out press releases. We created campaigns “BC Child Care Not for Sale”, “Child Care Report Card: Harper doesn't make the grade”, “Valentines to the Prime Minister” and “Minister Reid Resign!”. We developed our new Community Tool Kit, created support for Bill C303 and our (r)Evolution of community controlled child care to name just a few.

We have re-activated our membership committee – their hard work is evident in our strong membership numbers. Through our communications committee, we were able to redesign our website and our outreach committee continues to broaden our list of regional network contacts so that our organization spreads seeds of advocacy throughout the province.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, the BCGEU for all the work we complete together through the Child Care Let's Make it Happen campaign, the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, our national partner, the Child Care Advocacy Forum and the many organizations who have and continue to support us through financial donations and in-kind support.

I would also like to give a big thanks to the women who contribute as consultants and “friends of the Coalition”, Sharon Gregson, Rita Chudnovsky, Avi Goldberg and Dianne Goldberg. Without their combined efforts, we would not have been able to complete the fine work that has been accomplished.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, sincerely and with respect, the women who sit on our Board of Directors. It is staggering the number of volunteer hours each woman contributes to our movement – always putting the best interest of children and families and the needs of our caregivers first.

And lastly I would like to thank all of our members around the province, some who never get the recognition that their passion and contribution deserve. Their voices and actions no longer can be described as trickles of water creating a river. In fact, they are mighty rivers coming together to create an ocean – with a force that will not be stopped.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harney
Chairperson
CCCABC