

# Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Working for a publicly funded, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible and accountable.

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## **Minister Reid – It's Time to Resign!**

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is taking the unprecedented step of calling on Linda Reid, BC's Minister of State for Child Care to resign from her Cabinet position.

The call for Reid's resignation comes after her latest announcements of yet more cuts to BC's already under funded and fragile child care services.

Minister Reid has had political responsibility for early childhood development and/or child care since the Liberal party came to power in 2001.

During that time:

- ✓ BC cut over \$40 million from its own annual spending on child care.
- ✓ BC received \$289 million from the federal government for early childhood development, and spent it on 'anything and everything but child care'.
- ✓ BC had no plan for investing the additional hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government under the 2005 Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in building a quality child care system. So far, BC has used the first 2 years' money to replace provincial cuts and on a series of 'one time only' expenditures.
- ✓ BC was silent when the new federal government cancelled the final 3 years of this Agreement at a total cost of \$455 million in transfer payments to BC.

"Now, with billions of dollars in projected provincial surpluses this year and beyond, BC is unwilling to invest even the minimal \$35-\$40 million required to maintain current funding levels for child care programs when the federal dollars dry up on March 31, 2007 – let alone invest the dollars necessary to build the child care system that BC needs" says Susan Harney, Chairperson of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC.

As a result, funding for Child Care Operating Funds that are the lifeline of quality group and family child care services in BC and for Child Care Resource and Referral Programs that are the public face of child care across BC are taking the hit.

To add insult to injury, it looks like BC is prepared to spend much of this year's federal child care dollars that are still on the books to 'buy out' long term rental and equipment leases for programs they are no longer willing to fund.

Minister Reid blames it all on the federal government but it is clear that she is totally unable to effectively represent the interests of BC children, families and child care providers at the Cabinet table.

"Minister Reid no longer has the faith of the child care community and it is time for her to take responsibility for the crisis in child care and step aside. We need a Minister of Child Care who can restore the cuts and build the child care system that BC needs." says Harney.

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1Backgrounder Attached

Contact the Coalition of Child Care Advocates at 604-709-5661