



licensed child care. While quality care may still be available for some families who can afford to pay high user fees, **BC's cross ministerial budget cuts continue to affect the most vulnerable of our society** -- young children, low and middle income earning families, and child care workers. For the majority of families, especially those who have children with special needs and parents with infants and toddlers, accessing licensed child care is a dream, not a reality! And the urgency of the crisis was reinforced in the Vanier Institute of the Family (2003) report "*The Current State of Canadian Family Finances*" which documents that a record number of Canada's parents are in the labour market - 82% of two adult families and 83% of single mothers.

**The throne speech promised to "continue to improve services for children, women and families".**

**BUT** with significantly reduced provincial spending on child care, money is spread too thinly to accomplish this goal. The sad reality is that while research highlights that quality, licensed child care benefits young children and their families, **BC's budget means that our province continues to fall farther and farther behind in terms of sustaining the delivery of quality child care services and ensuring retention of highly qualified and adequately paid providers.**

**The throne speech called for more consultation** across the province. **BUT BC's children (from birth to twelve years of age) and their families can't wait. We have already said it, again and again – our children and families need access to a publicly funded, comprehensive, high quality child care system.**

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