

# 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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## Make Liberals Run on Their Child Care Record

April 19, 2005

Today – the writ was dropped to launch what will be ‘an election like no other’ for children, families and child care services across BC.

Over the last four years, this provincial government has done more damage to child care in BC than ever thought possible. Children, families and caregivers have paid the price for the Liberals’ regressive child care policy – the first provincial government in over 20 years to make things worse, not better.

Here’s their record:

- ✓ Since coming to power, over \$100 million has been cut from child care spending in BC.
- ✓ As a result, fewer children have been able to attend licensed, quality care; well established child care programs have closed; early childhood education training programs have been eliminated or reduced; caregivers’ wages have been rolled back; and reliance on unregulated care has increased.
- ✓ The BC Liberals’ election promise in 2001 to target funds to those who need it most flies in the face of the research about the value of universality. The tragic irony is that low- and moderate-income families and their children have been hurt the most by Liberal policies and cuts.
- ✓ While the government may now be talking about ‘reinvestments’, they are in fact using federal funds to replace some, but not all, of their provincial cuts.
- ✓ In spite of having received close to \$250 million in federal funds for early childhood, including child care, BC will spend \$40 million less of its own funds on child care and a total of \$20 million less on child care in 2004/05 than in 2001/02.
- ✓ After almost 4 years in office, this government still has no coherent plan to move from the current patchwork of user fee services to a publicly funded child care system and is unwilling to spend limited funds in ways that build a quality system.

As the election date approaches, the BC Liberals are making some so-called ‘good news’ child care announcements and are handing out small ‘one-time only’ grants for time-limited projects. But one-time only funds do not make up for 4 years of cuts and do not build a child care system.

Leading up to the May 17 election, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates will make sure that this government has to run on its real Child Care Record – not on empty promises of golden days ahead.