

Child Care is a Right Project releases “A Tale of Two Canadas: Implementing Rights in Early Childhood”

A great change is coming over childhood in the world’s richest countries.

So begins UNICEF’s 2008 Report Card 8, *The Child Care Transition*, which observes that “this is the first generation of children in which a majority will be in some form of out-of-home child care.” UNICEF Canada comments that “this child care transition at once offers an enormous potential for the child and a risk if key quality issues are not considered in the planning and delivery of early childhood care and education.”

So, how is Canada doing at protecting the rights of young children? To what extent does public policy in Canada recognize the social and economic changes and challenges facing families today? Working collaboratively on the Child Care is a Right project, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada explore two fundamentally different answers to this question in *A Tale of Two Canadas: Implementing Rights in Early Childhood*.

A Tale of Two Canadas supports several goals of the Child Care is a Right project. This paper will be the foundation of:

- **Our submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child** when it meets in 2012 to review Canada’s progress on realizing child rights. The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children will also submit a comprehensive report on child and youth rights in Canada, and the Child Care is a Right project has been working with this Coalition on the early childhood chapter. For more information on children’s rights, Canada’s reporting to the United Nations and the responses of various non-government organizations, visit the Canadian Coalition’s web site regularly (rightsofchildren.ca).
- **Our public education work to encourage and empower Canadians, especially women, to assert their right to child care.** Stay tuned for a series of fact sheets, a webinar, and other materials and activities.
- **Our ongoing policy monitoring of Canada’s progress** in fulfilling international and federal/provincial/territorial commitments to inform Canadians about, plan for, invest in and monitor the results of its support for young children and families.

You can help advance our right to child care by:

- **Sharing your thoughts** – at the dinner table, in the coffee shop and on WeNeedChildCare.ca
- **Sharing the facts** – download *A Tale of Two Canadas*, or contact info@cccabc.bc.ca to order your copy, to help you inform families, friends and co-workers about what’s required to fulfill Canada’s child care commitments to children, women and families.
- **Joining and/or donating to the child care advocacy movement** – information about becoming a member and donating to the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC can be found on their websites: www.ccaac.ca / www.cccabc.bc.ca.