

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC  
Annual General Meeting  
Chairperson Report 2018

How does a small group of women change public policy so that lives of women and children and families can be better? How do two organizations with few resources and one without an office spearhead a movement that changes history? Those were the questions women from the Coalition of Child Care Advocates and the Early Childhood Educators asked themselves. We started with research and our lived experiences. We built our economic argument (thanks to people like Iglia Ivanova and Robert Fairholm and Lynell Anderson). We took our ideas around the province to families, to early childhood educators, to politicians, to unions, and to businesses. We asked for help from feminist leaders.

And then we became relentless. And we weren't a small group any more. We were many. And the many wrote letters and emails, signed petitions, sent postcards, held stroller brigades and talked about the \$10aDay campaign to everyone we knew and lots of people we didn't. And then we were tens of thousands, who told their stories and chose this time to Vote Child Care.

And, at the same time, a number of NDP politicians decided the public policy that had created such chaos for families needed to be changed and led by John Horgan, their support for \$10aDay emerged as a top election issue. So the politicians and voters came together – and here we are.

But you know us!! The work is far from over; in fact it's just begun. The role out of Child Care BC must be implemented based on the research and lived experiences that we started with. There are too many ways that this public policy could go off track, so we need to keep supporting those whose job it is to implement all the pieces, while at the same time, we hold them accountable to do the job right.

The crisis is not over for families and until every child whose family wants it, has a quality space, every family can afford quality care and every early childhood educator in our province receives fair pay for the important work they do, we will not be satisfied, nor will we be silent.

So today we celebrate together. And tomorrow, together we roll up our sleeves and get to work.