

The Coalition expresses profound concern about plans to close the BCIT child care centre

March 2004

Mr. Bob Wilds
Chair, BCIT Board or Governors
3700 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby, BC, V5G 3H2

Dear Mr. Wilds,

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC wishes to express our profound concern about your Institution's plans to close the BCIT child care centre.

For over two decades, our organization has worked with parents, citizens and community organizations to build support for a publicly funded child care system in BC that meets the needs of all children and families.

As part of our advocacy, we actively support the provision of child care services at post-secondary institutions such as yours. On-site child care plays a critical role in enhancing access to education and training for parents and is particularly important for women who face additional barriers in accessing technological, technical and trades training. As student fees increase and access to financial aid becomes even more restrictive, the loss of on-site child care services may be the final straw for these current and prospective students who will simply be unable to complete or pursue training.

We know full well that current provincial policies make it increasingly difficult to operate financially viable, affordable, high quality child care. The pending closure of your child care centre reflects a tragic trend playing out across BC as well established programs are closing their doors. The loss of on-site child care services at post-secondary institutions across BC is particularly alarming.

As a leader in the advanced education system in BC, BCIT can help reverse this trend. We therefore strongly urge your Board to:

1. Allocate sufficient resources to maintain on-site child care services at BCIT
2. Call on Premier Campbell and Minister Bond to ensure that post-secondary institutions have the mandate and resources to support on-site child care services.

We trust that your Board appreciates the urgency of this matter and will take immediate steps to ensure that not one more child care space in BC is lost.

Sincerely,

Susan Harney, Chair

cc. Premier Gordon Campbell
Kevin Wainwright, BCIT Faculty & Staff Assoc.
Minister Shirley Bond
Samantha Yeung, BCIT Student Society

[Read the accompanying letter](#) to Samantha Yeung, BCIT Student Society