

**Coalition responds to Supported Child Development Program Policy and Procedures Manual (Working Draft) with a request for a full public accounting of the feedback received on the SCC refocus process**

April 2004

Lorraine Aitken  
Provincial Child Development Advisor  
237 3rd Street  
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 1E1

Dear Lorraine,

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC recently received a copy of the Supported Child Development Program Policy and Procedures Manual (Working Draft) and related Cover Letter.

While we are currently reviewing the Draft Manual, we note that your cover letter indicates that:

*"The Working Draft: April 2004 reflects the input of families, service providers and ministry staff from around the province. Feedback from an earlier draft version dated January 30, 2004, that was widely circulated, has been incorporated."*

With all due respect for the work that you and members of the related committees have no doubt done to consider community feedback, the Coalition finds this response to community input totally inadequate.

The Coalition, along with others, participated in two rounds of consultation on the refocus for Supported Child Care. The first round occurred through public meetings held across the province in fall, 2003. On very short notice, hundreds of parents, service providers and community organizations turned out to express their views. Through our provincial networking, we know that serious concerns about the refocus process were raised consistently.

Yet, to date there has been no reporting back to the community summarizing the input received at these meetings nor has government reported out on its response to the issues raised. This reflects both a lack of accountability to and respect for community members who take government's invitations to provide input and feedback seriously.

The same must be said for the consultation process on the first Draft Policy Manual. Once again, in spite of unrealistic timelines, communities responded. Once again, in spite of a general statement that 'feedback has been incorporated' we have no details from which to assess whether or not this is in fact the case.

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is therefore requesting that you table, with the appropriate bodies, our request for a full public accounting of the feedback received on the SCC refocus process including:

1. A summary of the major themes/concerns that were raised during the consultation process to date.
2. A clear statement of government's response to each major theme/concern raised including government's rationale for accepting or rejecting the community advice.
3. A clear indication of how input that government accepted is reflected in the Draft Manual and ongoing SCC refocus process.

We look forward to your speedy response.

Sincerely,

Rita Chudnovsky

On behalf of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

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