

## **Letter to Camosun College**

CCCABC

June 2004

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC wishes to express our profound concern about the closure of the Camosun College child care centres.

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

Extensive research shows that to have healthy communities and a healthy economy, BC's families must be able to access affordable, high quality, child care. On-site child care plays a critical role in giving children quality early learning experiences and in enabling access to post secondary education for their parents. It is particularly important for women who face additional barriers in accessing further education. Without access to quality child care, current and prospective students will simply be unable to pursue college programs.

While lack of adequate federal and provincial funding for licensed child care has resulted in the current child care crises and it is challenging to sustain affordable, quality child care, it is particularly alarming that we are faced with the loss of programs like Camosun housed in facilities built with public funds e.g., BC 21. If such programs close, it will take decades to rebuild and reflect a huge loss to taxpayers.

We urge you to keep your child care services open and to join parents and child care providers across BC who are working together for a publicly funded child care system that meets the needs of all. As a leader in the advanced education system in BC, we strongly urge the Camosun Board to:

1. Allocate sufficient resources to maintain the two on-site child care services at the College sites.
2. Call on Premier Campbell 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 of Coalition of Child Care Advocates

cc. Premier Gordon Campbell