

Letter to BCIT

CCCABC

11 May 05

Dr. Tony Knowles
President, British Columbia Institute of Technology and
Mr. Bob Wilds
Chair, and Board of Governors
British Columbia Institute of Technology

Dear Dr. Knowles and Mr. Wilds,

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.

As leaders in the advanced education system in BC, we strongly urge the BCIT Board of Governors to fully support the Faculty and Students' Association's proposal to ensure the continuation and enhancement of on campus child care services at BCIT.

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.
- On-site child care 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.

It will be particularly alarming if we are faced with the loss of child care programs like BCIT that were originally housed in facilities built with public funds [e.g., BC 21] and any losses in quality regulated care will reflect a huge loss to BC taxpayers.

As you know, several federal provincial agreements were recently signed in order to move forward with critical next steps of building a pan-Canadian early learning and child care system. Prime Minister Martin, in signing the agreement with Ontario stated,

"The single most important -- not social, but economic -- program that a government can bring in is early learning and child care. This is about the good that the government can do to help in the daily lives of Canadians, to ensure the future prosperity of Canada and the success of our citizens."

We trust that your Board appreciates the urgency of this matter and will take immediate steps to ensure the continuation and enhancement of on campus child care services at BCIT.

Sincerely,
Susan Harney, Chair
On behalf of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC