

Letter to Premier Campbell

CCCABC

15 Jun 05

Dear Premier,

Now that the election is over, we trust that you are giving top priority to securing an Agreement with the federal government on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC). As you know, the federal government has already signed agreements with 5 provinces. Prior to and during the provincial election, your Minister of Children and Family Development indicated that a BC deal was imminent yet BC families and children are still anxiously awaiting action.

We are writing to express our views on two important related matters.

1. Not Just Any Deal Will Do

While immediate action on an Agreement is critical, the specifics of the Agreement are very important. International research demonstrates that although some policies advance quality child care systems others do not.

We are therefore looking for you to sign an Agreement with the federal government that commits BC to:

- Build a child care system based on the principles of Quality, Universality, Accessibility and Developmental Programming.
- Invest in regulated community-based non-profit child care services.
- Use federal funds to complement rather than replace provincial investments.
- Consult with communities to develop Action Plans with measurable targets.
- Be publicly accountable for clear reporting on expenditures and progress made on availability, affordability and quality.

2. A Five Year Action Plan

Existing bi-lateral agreements require provinces to develop, with community input, 5 Year Action Plans on Early Learning and Child Care. These Plans will be used to negotiate detailed multi-year funding agreements with the federal government. We fully expect that this will be a feature of a BC Agreement and welcome it.

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and others have been calling for such a plan for over 4 years. We have repeatedly raised concerns over ad hoc funding and policy decisions that hurt families, children and child care services. We trust that a planning requirement under a BC Agreement will lead your government to consult on and deliver a long-awaited coherent Child Care Plan.

In order to contribute to the community consultation about BC's Action Plan, we are attaching "[Our Child Care Plan](#)" which outlines how and where to begin. Our Plan is evidence-based, and calls for provincial legislation and coordinated action in 5 key areas: Funding the System, Expanding the System, Developing the Workforce, Meeting Diverse Needs and Enhancing Quality.

We will actively advance these key elements during the development of a provincial plan. Further, 'Our Plan' will be the basis for evaluating your government's commitment to ensuring that child care funding advances a quality, affordable and accessible child care system in BC.

We remain ready, willing and able to work towards achieving this goal and are confident that with political will and leadership progress is possible. BC families and children are waiting.

Sincerely,

Susan Harney, Chair
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

cc. Minister Ken Dryden, Social Development Canada
Carole James, Leader of the Official BC Opposition

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