

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC's position on the role of family child care in a non-profit child care system

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The Coalition advocates for a comprehensive child care system that provides families with a range of quality child care options – including centre and family based care, full time and part time care, etc. We see quality, licensed family child care as a key component of this system.

The Coalition believes that if and when substantial public funding is available to build such a system, new growth and expansion should be through public and/or not-for-profit delivery models. The CCCABC has always advocated for grand-parenting of existing privately operated child care – both family and centre based. Clearly, transition plans that do not destabilize existing child care services and that honour the years many dedicated providers have invested in their services are an essential part of moving to a non-profit, community based system. Our support for a non-profit system is about the future and is based on extensive research about factors that promote quality; the need for accountability for public funding and the lessons learned about the market failure of the current user-fee and subsidy system.

There are a number of models for the inclusion of family child care in a community-based non-profit child care system. These include Neighbourhood Hubs – in which family child care providers are part of an integrated range of child care services in their area; Full Service Schools – in which family child care providers are linked to the local elementary school; Agency models – in which one agency coordinates the delivery of family child care services; or, as is the case in Denmark, local municipal administration of neighbourhood-based family child care clusters of 6 or 7 providers. The Coalition does not at this point favour one model over the other but we are confident that the full inclusion of family child care is possible. Extensive discussion with our family child care members, parents and others will be required to explore which approaches might work best in BC.

Finally, the Coalition's priority is the development of a high quality, publicly funded system that meets the needs of most families and caregivers. However, we recognize that family child care providers (and other child care providers) have the right to decide whether to participate or not in a publicly funded non-profit system that will be accountable for elements of quality, accessibility, etc. We respect that some current providers might well choose to operate legally (ie. within licensing regulations) outside of the system we advocate for.