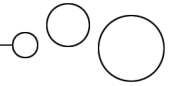


COALITION OF

child care advocates OF BC



Working together for a community based, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and accountable.

An Open Letter to the Provincial Child Care Council

Provincial Child Care Council
PO Box 9778 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9S5

July 5, 2010

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC trusts that the Provincial Child Care Council (PCCC) shares the community's grave concerns about the current state of child care in BC. As you well know, funding cuts over the last decade, the cancellation of the federal/provincial child care agreement, and the lack of a plan to build a child care system in BC have created a child care crisis.

The evidence is indisputable: high fees put quality child care out of reach for most BC families; low wages force many early childhood educators out of the field; and lost spaces and long wait lists mean most BC families cannot find quality care.

This situation has been exacerbated by the implementation of full school day Kindergarten for 5 year olds, without consideration of the impact on the already fragile child care sector or a plan to integrate the delivery of early care and learning services.

Given this context, we have significant questions about the advice that the PCCC is providing to the Province. While your 2008/09 Annual Report identified improving child care quality as a key priority, recent public comments from PCCC member, Jack Keough, support government's decision to reduce staffing requirements for school-aged care.

We therefore ask you, the body with the legislated mandate to advise the minister responsible for child care, to be accountable to the community you are intended to represent by publicly sharing the perspectives you are bringing to your advisory role. Specifically,

1. Do Mr. Keogh's comments represent the position of the PCCC regarding the importance of child care standards?
2. Given that the PCCC advice in 2008/09 about the need for service integration and a robust human resource strategy for the child care field have not been followed, what are your next steps?

We know that much of the PCCC's work is considered confidential. However, we also know that as a publicly mandated and funded body, accountability and transparency are both legitimate and essential.

We are happy to meet with you to discuss these specific questions. More importantly however, we strongly encourage you to help the community understand your priorities for advancing quality child care in BC and your plans for a public response if child care continues to be neglected and under funded.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns and suggestions.

Yours for quality child care,

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC