

**The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
announces we are...**

**FIGHTING BACK FOR
CHILD CARE...**

With
Jim Sinclair
President BC Federation of Labour

At the
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, February 21st 7pm

At
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
Renfrew & 5th Street
East Vancouver

JOIN WITH US PLEASE
AS WE FIGHT BACK!

We're heading to Victoria



Saturday, February 23

It is time to make our voices heard.

Child care along with dozens of other programs and services has been decimated by the budget cuts. We will join the protest and rally on the grounds of the Legislature in Victoria at 12 noon on Saturday, February 23.

We want YOU to come with us!!

Cost of the return bus trip will be \$10.00 per person plus the walk on ferry fare.

Bring your signs. Bring your voices. Bring your will to be heard!!

Buses will leave Vancouver at 7:30 am and return at approximately 7:00 pm.

To reserve your seat, complete the form below and send it with a cheque payable to Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre by Tuesday, February 19.

Your seat is guaranteed only after payment has been received.

We have reserved 4 buses – total capacity 192 passengers.

Tell your colleagues, your friends your family – everyone is directly affected by these funding cuts.

For further information, contact Annette at Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
Telephone: 604-709-5661 or e-mail at CCRIS@wstcoast.org.

Victoria Rally Bus Reservation

Please reserve _____ seats on the bus to the rally in Victoria on February 23, 2002.

I have enclosed a cheque for _____ seats @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____
payable to Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre.

Names of Passengers You Are Registering (maximum 10 per registration form)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Your Name _____

Your Daytime Phone _____

Your Address _____

Your Fax Number _____

*You will be notified of departure point and time closer to the day of the Rally.
Sorry, we will not be able to give refunds although you can make substitutions.*

Child Care Advocacy Forum

#300 - 210 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 3W2

Phone:
(604)515-6257

Toll Free:
1-877-361-1116

Fax:
(604) 709-5662

Participating Organizations:

BC Association of
Child Care Services

Coalition of Child
Care Advocates of BC

Early Childhood
Educators of BC

School Age Child
Care Association

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada Family
Child Care Association
of BC

Funding and Support
provided by:

Status of Women Canada
- BC/Yukon Region
through Coalition of
Child Care Advocates of
BC

LIBERALS TRADE QUALITY AND THE FUTURE OF BC'S CHILDREN TO SAVE A FEW BUCKS

Eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy will be reduced to a lower income level as part of the Liberal cuts to social programs announced last week. This means that many low income families will no longer be eligible to receive assistance towards their child care fees. Child care advocates across the province are stunned and horrified.

“We have been telling the government over and over again that quality child care is not affordable for most parents. But this government, that promised to listen and work with community groups, chose to cut the heart out of Child Care BC and now they are reducing financial support to the very poorest of already low income families,” says a distraught Sharon Gregson, child care advocate.

This cut will affect the most vulnerable of our society, something that the Liberal government promised not to do during the election campaign. “Let’s be very clear. Cuts for these families will mean parents choose between quality child care and feeding their kids. We are not talking about families who have two cars, a boat and vacation property. These families are barely surviving! Any cuts will be devastating for these children” says Susan Harney of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C. “Families will be forced to leave their children in cheaper, unsafe, babysitting where adults are untrained and have no criminal record checks. Obviously the Liberals are willing to trade these children to save a few dollars”.

The Child Care Advocacy Forum (BC) strongly urges its collective membership to speak out against these cuts. What can you do?

1. Call or write your MLA. Tell them how these cuts will directly affect families.
2. Email your stories to susanharney@shaw.ca The Forum is collecting information from around the province that will be passed on to the media.
3. Organize meetings in your area with other social service agencies/programs. This is a time for us to speak with one voice. As we know child care is not the only service seriously affected.
4. Check the BC Federation of Labour’s web site. (www.campaignbc.ca) This web site will provide information regarding a rally in Victoria on February 23rd as well as information about town hall meetings that will be held throughout the province.
5. Contact the Forum through our toll free number 1-877-361-1116. This phone is not a person but messages are checked regularly and someone WILL get back to you as soon as possible.
6. Let Gordon Campbell know that these kind of cuts are cruel and unfair. You can write Campbell at Room 156, Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC V8V 1X4. His email is Gordon.Campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca. Phone: 250-387-1715 Fax 250-387-0087.

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A REPORT FROM THE CHILD CARE ADVOCACY FORUM

January 24, 2002

Dear Friends,

Since the devastating cuts that were announced last Thursday, the member organizations of the Forum have been trying hard to sort through information and rumour to provide you with the most up to date information as we know it. Here's what we know.

1. Families are being hit hard with numerous cuts to social programs. For a sampling of these cuts contact First Call at www.firstcallbc.org.
2. Eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy will be reduced to a lower income level. This means that many parents who now qualify for full or partial subsidy may no longer qualify. Although changes are not supposed to be in effect immediately, and we understand that guidelines have not been finalized, we need to keep track of any changes in subsidy for parents in our programs.
3. Funding for all Child Care Resource & Referral and One Stop Access programs as well as Westcoast provincial services, will end effective April 1, 2004. Some CCRR's have already been notified. Others have not. The information from the Child Care Branch was that it was their "intention" to maintain services provided by these programs until the April 2004 cut off.
4. The government is promising to amalgamate child care grants into one grant. It is unclear what grants they are talking about or how this changes the current funding process.
5. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services service plan states that the ministry is moving away from provincial regulation to self-regulation and compliance monitoring. "The ministry will move from heavy prescriptive regulations to objective-based codes and standards". We don't know if this ideology will affect Child Care Licensing or not, although there are some rumours that regulations may be cut by 33%.

What can/should we do?

1. Call the Child Care Branch (250-356-5883). Demand to know details of the intended cuts. Ask questions. When will cuts to subsidy happen? Will there be cuts to licensing? Let us know what they say. (Toll free line 1-877-361-1116) or email susanharney@shaw.ca.
2. Western Canada Family Child Care Association is developing strategies for organizing parents opposed to the cuts. Contact your local rep.
3. Write your MLA, Gordon Campbell and Lynn Stephens. Let them know how important CCRR programs are in your area.
4. Work with other social service agencies in your area to create a collective voice opposed to all cuts to social services.