

January, 2003
Hon. Gary Collins, BC Minister of Finance
Room 153, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Finance Minister,

Your government promised the people of B.C a child care plan and funding that would take us forward to achieving a comprehensive, quality child care system. But, in reality, your government has implemented plans and funding cuts that will result in spending 36% less on regulated child care (over \$64 million) by March 31, 2004. You:

1. reduced the spending by \$26 million, changed eligibility in the Ministry of Human Resources child care subsidy program and put regulated child care out of reach of low and moderate income families. You have eliminated opportunities for many preschoolers from low and moderate income families to enroll in quality pre school programs.
2. terminated the funding under the Munroe agreement (as of March 31, 2003) and turned the clock backwards by eliminating the progress in improving child care workers' wages.
3. plan to reduce the spending on Supported Child Care in the Ministry of Children and Family Development by up to 28% which will further reduce the inclusion of children with extra support needs in regulated child care programs.
4. plan to defund the Child Care Resource and Referral Programs, One Stop Access sites and the provincial services of Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (as of March 31, 2004) which will eliminate services vital to supporting and enhancing quality child care across B.C.

We call on you to reverse the cuts your government is making to child care and to restore the funding in the 2003/04 provincial budget.

Sincerely,

(signature)

(Print name)

(Print complete address)