



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 Community Social Services Summit and leaders of BC's community based social services agencies and sector.**

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

Dear Friends,

We were very saddened to learn that the participation by labour organizations in the Community Social Services Summit has been rejected by some stakeholders. We also question why the Community Social Services Employers' Association would refuse to work jointly with labour organizations at this difficult time for social services in British Columbia. Surely, now more than ever, a unified and collaborative approach is required as we advocate for vital community based social services.

Since 2003, our organization has actively promoted unionization as part of an effective strategy for achieving a publicly funded, not-for-profit, accessible, affordable child care system.

Our allies in the labour movement have been steadfast in their support of child care and other important social services. Unions have a long history of advocating for universal, publicly funded and democratically controlled social programs. Unions strengthen our collective capacity to advance the progressive policies that children, families, workers and communities need to be healthy and productive.

For these reasons we strongly support our labour allies having a rightful seat at the table when the Community Social Services Summit meets again. However, if the decision to exclude our labour allies is upheld and union representatives continue to be excluded then the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC will not be comfortable participating and we will respectfully request our name be withdrawn from the list of Summit participants and endorsers.

We are hopeful that everyone, the public, stakeholders, community and labour, will be able to work together to restore the cuts and strengthen social services in British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Harney  
Chairperson

cc.

British Columbia Government and Service Employees' Union  
Health Sciences Association of BC  
Hospital Employees' Union  
Canadian Union of Public Employees  
United Steelworkers of America  
Professional Employees' Association  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
Canadian Translators and Interpreters Guild  
Construction and Specialized Workers' Union  
British Columbia Nurses' Union  
National Automobile, Aerospace, Transportation and General Workers Union of Canada  
Christian Labour Association of Canada  
Federation of Community Social Services of BC  
British Columbia Association for Community Living  
BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses  
Ending Violence Association of BC  
Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies  
Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training  
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies  
BC Association of Family Resource Programs  
BC Non-Profit Housing Association  
Shelter Net BC  
BC – Yukon Halfway House Association  
BC Settlement and Integration Workers Association  
BC Association of Social Workers  
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
BC Association of Child Care Employers  
BC Association for Child Development and Rehabilitation  
Early Childhood Educators of BC  
Federation of Youth in Care Networks  
Infant Development Program of BC