



COALITION OF

child care advocates

OF BC



October 31st, 2007

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and our members across the province send greetings of solidarity to the families, child care workers and community members who are fighting to keep the Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group's Infant Toddler Program open.

Of critical importance is the need for an immediate satisfactory solution that keeps the centre open while the board and staff develop a longer term plan, with set goals and timelines, to ensure appropriately qualified staff are working and the centre is in compliance with the Child Care Regulation.

For over two decades, our organization has worked with families, citizens and community organizations to build support for a publicly funded child care system in BC that meets the needs of all children and families.

Over the last five years families, child care advocates and activists across the province have continued to identify and report significant concerns about the impact of provincial and federal government's actions. Solid recommendations have been made from a variety of individuals and groups – researchers, municipal bodies, social justice organizations, labour activists and business groups – all recommendations that would set out a long term plan for child care and begin to stabilize child care in BC.

Repeatedly, a range of concerns have been well articulated about key human resources issues including the shortage of qualified trained staff, lack of publicly funded educational programs for certification of early childhood educators, and the urgent need for adequate long term operational funding to improve the wages and working conditions and retention of trained and qualified child care workers.

All the while, child care funding changes and cuts continue to destabilize child care in BC. Our governments have the budget surpluses to implement solutions and build a publicly funded, high quality community owned and controlled child care system.

We urge you to stay strong – your protest sends a loud and clear wake up call to the Premier and Minister of State for Child Care. Lack of adequate federal and provincial funding for licensed child care has resulted in the current child care crises.

Without a new long-term plan for publicly funding a quality child care system, more and more non-profit organizations will be unable to sustain the delivery of affordable, quality child care.

In solidarity,

Susan Harney
Chair
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC