

## **Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC**

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

2772 East Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia V5M 1Y8  
tel: 604.709.5661 [www.cccabc.bc.ca](http://www.cccabc.bc.ca) fax: 604.709.5662

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September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### Solidarity Message to SFU Childcare Society Workers

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC stands in solidarity with the Early Childhood Educators and School Age Staff at SFU as you take the difficult and courageous step of withdrawing your labour.

For over 3 decades, SFU child care services have been a shining light of quality child care. From the front lines, you show all of us how it can and should be done.

For almost as long, the Coalition has worked to convince the public and government of the importance and value of the work you do. Your consistent effort to deliver quality care makes our advocacy possible and credible. For that we thank you.

Strikes are never easy. In child care, where good relationships between workers and parents are an essential element of quality care, they are even harder.

So, we know that you have not taken a decision to withdraw your services lightly.

But we also know that you and thousands of caregivers across this province can no longer subsidize quality child care through low wages, inadequate benefits and lack of respect. This is the big message that everyone needs to hear.

Your determination only strengthens our resolve to hold the provincial government accountable for the child care crisis they have created and to call on them to make a solution possible at SFU and in child care services across BC.

Now is the time for the government to invest some of BC's massive surplus in raising child care wages and lowering parent fees so that children, families and child care workers can get on with the job of providing quality care.

And, we will be proud to stand with you until the job is done.

Susan Harney  
Chair

cc. George Heyman, President BCGEU

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Message to SFU Childcare Society Board of Directors and Parents  
c/o Leanne Dalton, Chairperson

Dear Ms. Dalton,

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC wants to express our concern for the children and families of SFU child care as you face a very difficult situation.

Strikes are never easy. In child care, where parents are both users of services and employers, they can be even more difficult. As a result, a decision by early childhood educators and school age staff to withdraw their labour is never taken lightly.

The fact that SFU Early Childhood Educators and School Age Staff feel they have no other choice is a painful indication of the current crisis in child care in BC.

As you know, child care is one of the few community services that rely primarily on user fees. In an already under funded system, BC cut \$50 million dollars from its annual budget for child care in 2002. Since then, any new expenditure on child care has come from federal transfer payments. These transfer payments were just beginning to replace provincial cuts when they too were cancelled as of March 31, 2007.

BC was the only province that responded to the loss of dedicated federal child care funds with further cuts. This sent an already vulnerable and fragile situation into chaos – as you are experiencing today.

We trust that you, more than anyone, understand and appreciate the importance of the work done by early childhood educators and school age staff. We also trust that you want to provide your employees with the wages and benefits they deserve.

But, we know there is a limit to what you and other parents can pay. Every fee increase puts quality care out of reach of even more families.

**The long term solutions at SFUCCS and in child care programs across BC rest clearly with the provincial government. They are responsible for the current crisis and they have the resources to solve the problem.**

That is why the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC continues to advocate for stable public funding to build a child care system that compensates caregivers appropriately and is affordable for all families.

At this difficult time, government will listen carefully to what you, the parents, have to say. We hope that you will send a clear, strong message that it's time for BC to invest some of its surpluses in child care so that parent and community Boards like yours can continue to deliver the quality care your children need and deserve.

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates is proud to stand with you until that job is done.

Susan Harney  
Chair

cc. Pat Frouws, Executive Director