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Freedom of Information request reveals.... another Failed Liberal Child Care Fix

As the election campaign enters its final days, it has never been clearer that after 8 years in power the BC Liberals have not fixed the child care crisis for BC's working families.

In fact, the crisis gets worse each year with daycare fees second only to housing costs for some families, staff wages so low that there is a recruitment nightmare and not enough spaces for parents who need daycare in order to go to work each day.

But, instead of moving forward with a sensible plan to build the child care system that BC families need, the Liberals tried to fix the crisis with a gimmick.

They announced an incentive grant supposed to lure child care workers back into low paying jobs, and Liberal candidates are now touting their government's record on child care BUT....

Information released through a Freedom of Information request tells a very different story.

As of January 30th, 2009, only 39 early childhood educators had applied for the grant and only 14 had qualified.

14 staff recruited back into child care centres will not even remotely fix the huge problems BC is facing. If all 14 people stay in the field for the 2 years required for the grant, government will have spent a grand total of \$70,000 to 'fix the child care staffing crisis'.

"Low wages are the real problem," says Susan Harney, Chair of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. "Until our government deals with the real problems in child care and the huge need of parents for affordable quality spaces – the crisis will deepen."

"This is just one more example of the government's failed child care policies. After cutting child care funding their only response to our child care crisis is a gimmick. I hope that on May 12, we elect MLAs who are prepared to tackle the real problem and pay those who care for our children the wages they deserve" front line child care worker, Stephanie Seaman, concludes.

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