

# Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

AGM  
Vancouver  
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## Chairperson Report

Every year the work of the Coalition seems to increase and expand and this year was no exception. Our major focus continues to centre around the \$10/day Plan and not surprisingly every project, every meeting, every new idea lead us back to it. Wasn't it Lynell Anderson who said "everything is about child care!". With the change in the federal government, a new optimism seemed to permeate not only our sector, but other social justice sectors as well. With the decade of conservative rule over, and the pronouncement that "because it's 2015" gave us hope that we might see some progressive movement towards the establishment and funding of a national child care strategy.

Our campaign continues to be enormously successful. It's a campaign that is know across sectors throughout Canada. We

continue to attract new organizational endorsements including 46 local governments and 30 school districts. Our consultant, Sharon Gregson, continues to travel around the province spreading the word about the \$10/day Plan and engaging real discussion about local issues and province wide support. The demand on Sharon's time and expertise steadily increases as she so expertly represents the Coalition at local, provincial, national and international conferences, institutes, key notes and on panels. And while it's been 5 years since our first printing of the Plan, we're now into our 6<sup>th</sup> printing, the solutions we offered in 2011 hold true today and stand the test of time.

In July of 2015, we worked with ECEBC to contract with CCPA to provide an economic analysis of possible funding solutions for the Plan. Written by Iglia Ivanova, "Solving BC's Affordability Crisis in Child Care: Financing the \$10 a Day Plan", the report received a great deal of media attention and has provided a

significant addition to the increasing body of research supporting implementation.

With financial support from the city of Vancouver, we were able to connect with every licensed facility in the city. In September we encouraged our members to participate in the national “Talk it up for Child Care” campaign with many of our grandparent Board members contributing photos of our precious grandchildren with messages to support progressive child care solutions.

We’ve been busy submitting 3 major funding applications. The first is through a CUPW child care fund which will help connect us with parents throughout the province. Our first initiative is to engage parents and experts in the field to look at barriers, messaging, strategies in small towns and large cities. Finally we’ll be developing tool and resource kits to assist parents to advocate and support solid solutions within their communities to promote the Plan.

Funding through the Lochmaddy Foundation, and contracting with Robert Fairholm, we’ve engaged in an economic cost benefit

analysis that could identify more benefits of and options for funding the Plan.

Partnering with the Manitoba Child Care Association we applied through Status of Women grants for our third project “Empowering Women for Community Action”. As both of our provinces are unique in Canada as having concrete plans for quality, affordable child care that is regulated, inclusive and publicly funded, we are hoping to engage women through new social media strategies. Over the three year proposal, we’ll also be working with Leadnow, Surrey Board of Trade, ECEBC and the BCGEU.

During May, “Child Care Month” we launched our 2016 (6<sup>th</sup> edition) printing, held our Student Advocacy Forum which we’ve been offering to continuing education students for over 20 years, reached our goal of over 10,000 individual endorsers for the Plan and submitted articles for several labour newsletters.

We continue to write letters and meet with various politicians hoping to help them better understand the critical crisis and why

current policies are not working. As well, we continue our partnerships with many other social justice groups including The Poverty Reduction Coalition, CCPA, First Call, Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, Westcoast Leaf, Single Mother's Alliance, Westcoast Resource Society, BCACCS, the BCCEDAW coalition as well as other women's organizations fighting violence against women.

A shout out to Mab Oloman who spear headed our analysis of the Ministry's capital funding program. In May First Call's Early Childhood Development Roundtable met with representatives of the Ministry of Child and Family Development. Their messages included:

1. That the policy and practise behind the Major Capital Funding program is flawed. And 2. Future capital funding should be directed only to the non-profit and/or public sector.

The work of the Coalition would not be successful without the tremendous contributions of our consultants Lynell Anderson and

Sharon Gregson. It is their work that has elevated our campaign's presence and provided the connections within the community to ensure that the rights of children and families as presented in our Plan moves us towards success.

We have many funders to thank. Large and small each donation helps us move our work forward. Let me thank the BCGEU, Unifor, Joanne Thronthwaite, BCNU, BC Federation of Labour, the Steelworkers, Unifor Local 467, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 247. I'd also like to thank Vancity and the United Way of the Lower Mainland for their continued support. I would urge everyone to commit \$10/month for the \$10/day campaign.

And a shout out to UBC for their generous support and Collingwood Neighbourhood House who financially supports all their childcare staff to be members. Without this support and the support of many individual donations we would never be able to do what we do.

2017 will be a year of challenges and opportunities. For starters, we'll be celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, first as the BC Daycare Coalition and now as the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. We look forward to a big celebration! 2017 also is the year for our next provincial election and a time to increase pressure on candidates to fully support the implementation of the Plan. We must remain diligent as we see some disturbing trends towards deregulation, support for the commercial sector, possible changes to certification, loss of quality in post secondary institutions etc. Positive changes will only occur if enough pressure is realized and the upcoming election provides one of the best ways to exert that pressure.

Thanks to my sisters on our Board. For nearly 35 years we've been working together to make change and I feel that we're just on the brink of success. Let's hope my intuition is correct.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Harney