



**B.C.
FEDERATION
OF LABOUR
(CLC)**

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Jim Sinclair
President

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September 9, 2010

TO: ALL AFFILIATES

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

RE: WCB'S FOR-PROFIT CHILDCARE CONTRACT

On behalf of the Officers of the B.C. Federation of Labour I am writing to express great concern that the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) entered into a contract with a for-profit childcare company to provide childcare services for WCB staff.

The Federation has long been an active advocate for a comprehensive, publicly-funded, community-based childcare system that is high quality, affordable and accessible. Such a system is essential for a successful work-life equation for families.

We understand that there is a childcare crisis at the WCB as there is across British Columbia. Although we strongly support WCB's desire to ensure their employees are able to meet their childcare needs, contracting with a for-profit childcare company does not achieve this goal.

The primary focus of for-profit child care centers is to grow their revenue and keep their expenditures low. As a consequence, parents pay higher fees and childcare workers receive lower wages.

I encourage you to approach your employer to discuss this and urge them to work with you and not-for-profit childcare providers in your communities to develop a childcare strategy that meets the needs of your members.

The Federation has been collaborating with the BC Childcare Coalition and has agreed to work together to stem this appeal from private childcare corporations for support in return for spaces.

I invite you to join us in calling on the provincial government to build and sustain quality, affordable, and accessible community-based childcare services that enable parents to have the peace of mind to work productively.

In solidarity,



JIM SINCLAIR
President

JS/mp - 0140-10aa-js-let-wcb-childcare