



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

October 29, 2007

Dear Parents,

You may have heard that a large foreign owned corporation, 123 Busy Beavers Learning Centres, is trying to buy up community-based child care in BC.

We know that you and many other BC families need **more** affordable, quality child care. So, at first glance, 123's interest might seem like a good thing.

But don't be fooled. This is not the solution to our child care problems.

This type of company will come into our communities and buy up existing spaces. Once they own a critical mass, they will control the cost and the number of spaces.

Their bottom line – not your child's needs – will drive their decisions.

We just have to look to Australia, where large corporations control most of the country's child care, to see what happened there.

- **Parent fees are way up**  
By 2005, some parents in Sydney (Australia's largest city) were paying over \$100 a day for child care. By 2006, the cost of child care throughout Australia was rising faster than almost any other goods or services. Only the cost of gasoline and vegetables rose more quickly.
- **Families still can't find child care**  
Spaces in low-income neighbourhoods, rural communities, for children under 3 and for children with extra support needs are still hard to find. But, there are lots of corporate spaces in high-income areas – where there are profits to be made.
- **Cost cutting hurts quality**  
The Australian media blames corporate cost saving measures for concerns about children's health and safety. In a recent survey, 21% of Australian corporate chain workers said they would not send their children to the centre where they worked because of quality concerns!
- **Taxpayers are subsidizing corporate profits.**  
Government spending on Australian child care is up. But, most of it goes into shareholders pockets. At least 40% of the revenue earned by Australia's largest child care company comes from government subsidies! Profits for this and other corporations are booming.

And, we worry about how much say you, as a parent, will have in your child's care when the owners of the daycare live offshore. Will they want to hear about your child's needs? Or, will the interests of their shareholders come first?

**The trust between you and those who care for your children is the heart and soul of community child care. That's why community owned and controlled child care is the best option for BC's children. Let's keep it that way.**

There are real solutions to BC's child care problems. Our government has the money to build an affordable, quality space for every child if they want to. Let's make sure they put your child's needs ahead of foreign shareholder profits!

For more information about how to say NO to foreign controlled child care, go to [www.cccabc.bc.ca](http://www.cccabc.bc.ca).