

Government Makes Cuts to Child Care Parent Fees Will Increase – Again....

(Vancouver) This week the provincial government once again signalled its lack of support for parents who need child care in order to hold jobs and go to school.

This week's cut comes to the small grants that child care centres use for basic safety and quality repairs. It is one more example of a provincial government that seems determined to dismantle and destabilize an already fragile daycare system in BC.

Without these Minor Capital Grants, child care centres will have no choice but to raise parent fees – again – just to cover the costs of meeting provincial licensing requirements for health, safety and quality standards.

Child care fees already account for 20% of families' monthly expenditures – their 2nd highest cost after housing. In 2008, a Metro Vancouver family with a 4-year-old in full-time child care and a 7-year-old in after-school care paid over \$12,000 a year for child care. No wonder a recent Angus Reid poll found that 87% of British Columbians with children are already unhappy about the lack of affordable daycare.

Yet, with no warning, the small but significant repair grants were cut from a maximum of \$5,000 a year to \$2,000 a year per 'facility address'. For some community agencies who might have four child care programs at one address – this means just \$500 per centre per year for basic repairs.

These small annual grants are used to replace worn carpeting, old fridges and stoves, and to ensure basic health and safety standards and quality environments are maintained for young children.

Already parents face a severe lack of spaces, long waiting lists and unreasonably high fees while child care staff are working for low wages. All this because the BC government refuses to meet the needs of BC families and their children by developing a child care system.

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Media, please contact Crystal Janes 604-803-5736 or 604-980-8045

