

## Child Care 101 – Facilitator’s Guide

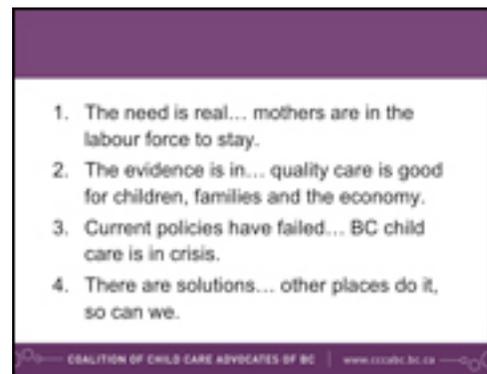
- Welcome everyone to the session – introduce yourself
- Have them introduce themselves – and ask them to tell the group one thing they think about the state of child care in Canada/BC.
- Hand out a blank circle/paper to each participant, ask them to draw a face (happy, sad, angry, neutral) to describe the current state of child care based on what they already know. Ask anyone to share which face they chose and why. Say that after the presentation we will revisit the faces.

- Go to **slide 2**

- **Slide 3** – Ask participants – How is child care good for children? Families? Communities? Record answers on flip chart. Ask what other jurisdictions have put public policies into place that support early care and learning? **Quebec developed a publicly funded child care system in 1997 that provided care for children at a cost of \$5 a day for parents, later raised to \$7. The Government of Quebec pays the balance of the cost. New Zealand now provides every child aged 0-5, as an entitlement, 20 hours of care paid for by the government whether in group licensed “kindergartens” (pre-schools), all day Daycare or Family Child Care. Parents pay the remainder if a child is there for more than 20 hours.**

(for loads more information –

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/world-conference-on-ecce/reports/> )



- **Slide 4** – This is a list of some of the different terms used for Early Childhood Education and Development. The variety of titles often adds to the confusion of what it is an ECE does. We very deliberately will be using the term **Early Care and Learning** because we firmly believe that without care there can be no learning. We will also be using all school day Kindergarten to acknowledge that for working families all day is longer than 9 am to 2:30 or 3 pm.

**Child Care 'ese'**

- Day care
- Child Care
- Early Care and Learning
- Early Childhood Development
- Early Childhood Education and Care
- Prekindergarten
- Preschool
- All Day K

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- **before** moving to next slide – ask participants – what kinds of non-parental child care programs do you know of? Flip chart the answers. When done – bring up **slide 5 & 6** – add any programs not identified by the group to the flip chart.

**Types of Child Care**

- Centre or group care
  - Infant/Toddler
  - 3-5
  - Kindercare
  - School aged care
- Family Child Care
  - Licensed family care (more than 2 children)
  - Licensed Not Required (LNR) care (2 children or less)
- Supported Child Care
- Pre-School
- Unlicensed/Informal/legal
- Live In Care Provider

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**Parenting/Early Learning**

- Strong Start
- Ready, Set, Learn
- and other part-time, drop in programs where parents or caregivers attend with the children.

Goal: promote early learning and healthy development through strengthened parenting.

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- **Slide 7** – refer back to flip chart from slides 5 & 6 – highlight which ones are “Child Care”

**Bottom Line**

If it meets the needs of children AND working/learning families – **it's child care.**

If it meets the needs of children but not the needs of working families, it might be a good idea but – **it's not child care.**

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- **Slide 8 & 9** – let the group know that there has been no new capital funding announced in BC for the development of new spaces. One of the government's solutions to lack of spaces in school aged care was to change the ratios. This adversely affects quality indicators. Has anyone heard of recent closures in your community? How many of you have a waitlist at your site. 3 months... 6... 12... 1 year... 2 years?

**NEED**

**A majority of BC families need child care. The need is not going away.**

- In 2008 there were 567,000 children under the age of 12 living in British Columbia;
- 358,700 of those children's mothers were in the paid labour force.
- But in 2011, there were only approx. 97,000 licensed child care spaces.




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**SPACES**

**Children have no entitlement to a space. There is no coordinated plan for growth. On their own – capital dollars don't work**

- Less than 20% of BC children under 12 have access to a regulated space
- Government describes new spaces – but not closures

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- **Slide 10 & 11** – the fees paid by parents go directly to operating the child care program – staff wages, toys, equipment, repairs, rent etc. Unlike other public services such as healthcare or schools, child care programs receive very little if any direct government funding. Currently only Child Care Operating Funds (CCOF) and Subsidy (special needs and/or low income) are available. Some parents will pay more for their child care than for their mortgage. On average parents will pay more for EC and Learning than they will for post secondary education but research shows that quality early care and learning experiences are more impactful on brain development than any other educational phase. *\*as provided via email by MCFD staff – Aug. 26, 2011*

**FEEES**

**Child care is 'user pay' service. It is expensive. Providers set fees. Parents pay (with limited subsidy for low-income parents)**

Fees account for 70% - 80% of child care revenue

Average BC fees in 2010/11 for 2.5 - 5 year olds was \$7,380 a year – Infant/Toddler spaces are 50% more or higher!



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**FEEES**

Child Care fees for parents continue to rise.

In the city of Vancouver, infant/toddler fees can be as high as **\$1,600 per month**

These fees are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest family expense after housing. (For fees in your community - ask your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program.)



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- **Slide 12** – \* This wage includes licensed ECEs that work in the broader sector as EDs, TA's, CC Consultants etc. Ask how long folks have been in the field, 2 years, 5 years, 10+ years. Depending on the majority, tailor your response. If longer than 5 years, say that is unusual, if majority under 5 years ask them to look around, because over 50% of them will be doing something else within the next few years. The low wages, lack of benefits and lack of respect make it challenging for people to make child care a long term career choice.

**WAGES**

Low wages have led to a staffing crisis. This negatively affects **QUALITY**

In 2006 the average wage of an ECE in BC was \$12.58 an hour  
In five years, wages have increased less than \$4.00 to the current average of just \$16.46 an hour\*

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- **Slide 13** – Currently BC Child Care services are adrift with no infrastructure or system in place to anchor it. When looking at a child care centre in our community, it may appear to have the same supports as a school, but the truth is there is no infrastructure or governing body that specifically supports cc. Therefore it is very unstable, similar to an ice floe. In contrast, a school has an entire range of support systems, including school boards, PACs, planning committees and the Ministry of Education, and most importantly public funding, which affords it the stability it has like the iceberg.

**WHY?**

**Failed policies**

	<b>child care</b>	<b>school</b>
• Patchwork not system		

As a result – there is no mandate to plan, develop and deliver a system.

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- **Slide 14** – Child Care is delivered strictly through the market, and not demand driven but supply driven and has none of the other supports we talked about. By inadequately funding individuals (eg) through subsidy – to find spaces but not funding the facilities that

**WHY?**

**Failed policies**

- Demand side not supply side funding
- Market driven not public good
- Individual not collective responsibility

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are needed to provide those spaces creates instability. Unlike healthcare or the public K-12 education system, child care is still considered the full responsibility of parents.

- **Slide 15** – Child Care BC Act – was going to be expanded to all age groups similar to Quebec system. But Liberals rescinded it and then combined Infant Toddler Grant, Wage Supplement and the Monroe funding (Provincial funding provided to unionized child care sites under the Community Social Service Employers' Association) into CCOF and reduced the amounts provided. ABC approach – Anything But Child Care – do you have any examples of that spending? Books for every 3 year old, booster seats. Strong Start, All School Day K, and potential future preschool programs but nothing for existing child care programs. When the Federal Conservatives cancelled the child care funding agreement (\$1.5 billion over 4 years) the BC Liberals passed those cuts onto BC's child care sector.
- **Slide 16**
- **Slide 17** – Get participants to list off industrialized countries – just yell 'em out. Now ask where they think Canada ranks in its public investment in Early Childhood Development. Show hands if you think – top 3? Top 5? Top 10? Bottom?

Looking back ...

- Cancelled \$7 a day school aged care -2001
- Cut provincial budget and spending
- Spent federal transfers on non-child care – or non-child care sustaining - programs
- Only province to pass on 2007 federal transfer cuts to families and providers
- False divide between early learning and care

**All School day K for 3-4's?**

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WHY?

**Inadequate Public Investment in Early Care and Learning Programs Creates the Crisis!**

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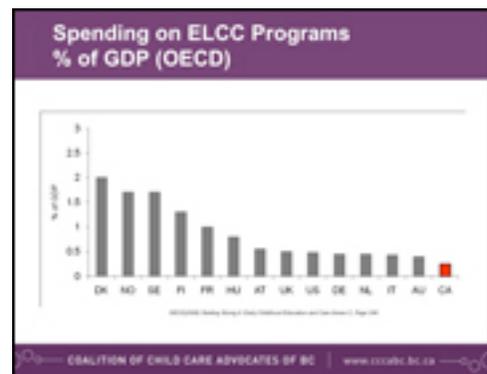
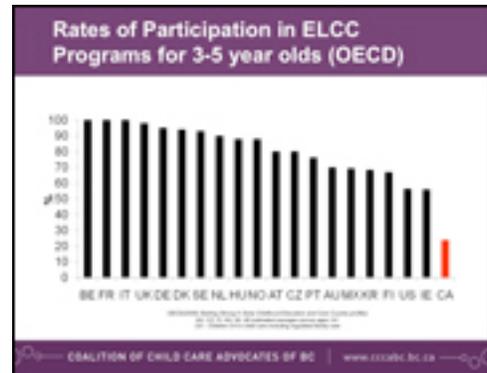
There are solutions!

Other countries do it – but where does Canada rank in its commitment to its children?



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- **Slide 18 & 19** – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In Belgium for example 100% of children 3-5 participate in some form of early care and learning program. Remember that in Canada approx. 85% of women with young children are in the paid labour force and yet as little as 20% of those children are in EC and learning programs. The question then is “where are these children and what are we investing in their care?” (**go to slide 19**) Canada contributes only .25 % of its gross national product to spending on ECD programs and it is only that high because of Quebec’s commitment to providing child care to its families ~ need we say more!



- **Slide 20** – show

The sad truth:

Canada ranks **last** in its investment in ECD !

- **Slide 21** – Not only do we rank last in our investments for children but we failed to meet fundamental family support benchmarks as assessed by the United Nations. Canada is failing to meet its commitments to the Rights of our Children.

Indicator	Target	Actual
Canada	✓	✓
Denmark	✓	✓
Finland	✓	✓
France	✓	✓
Germany	✓	✓
Belgium (Flemish)	✓	✓
Hungary	✓	✓
Italy	✓	✓
Japan	✓	✓
South Korea	✓	✓
Spain	✓	✓
Austria	✓	✓
Netherlands	✓	✓
United Kingdom	✓	✓
Sweden	✓	✓
USA	✓	✓
Portugal	✓	✓
Republic of Korea	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓
Spain	✓	✓
Poland	✓	✓
United States	✓	✓
Australia	✓	✓
Canada	✓	✓
France	✓	✓

**UNICEF Report Card 8 – December 2008**

Canada fails to achieve benchmarks for:

- Parental leave
- Child and family poverty
- Universal access to essential health services
- Child care quality and access standards

Only one benchmark achieved – child care staff training

- **Slide 22** – show
- **Slide 23** – We strongly suggest you read The Community Plan for a Public System of Early Care and Learning in BC by ECEBC and CCCABC (Hand out copies of plan if you have them or refer to the website: <http://cccabc.bc.ca/plan/> ) It is a very comprehensive plan where all of the previously identified ECD programs can find a place and the needs of families, children, staff and communities are met. Webinar available as well <http://www.vimeo.com/17228473>
- **Slide 24** – show
- **Slide 25** – In Quebec, child poverty rate has decreased by 50%, school test scores have gone from the lowest to the highest in Canada and the increase in income tax revenue from women participating in the labour force now pays 40% of their child care system. According to the CCHRSC study “Workforce Shortages” for every \$1 invested in child care Canadians realize a return of over \$2.50 – making child care the number one economic stimulator of any industry!

### Here's what needs to happen

1. A commitment to build a system
2. Targets and timelines to
  - Lower fees for parents to \$10 day F/T, \$7 a day P/T and **free** for families earning \$40,000 per year and under.
  - Raise wages (\$25/hour + 20% benefits)
  - Create a system of Early Years Centres for all children. \*

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### What should it look like?



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### The tried and still true arguments

- Quality child care is early learning
- There is no 'choice' without 'choices'
- Build it and they will come



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### The 'new and true' argument

Child care is a great infrastructure investment

Like other infrastructure investments

- Creates jobs – for men and women
- Dollars spent generate more than many industries (local inputs and outputs)

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- **Slide 26** – a \$1 an hour wage increase given to a worker earning \$12-\$14 an hour, results in \$0.75-\$0.85 of that dollar being spent right in the local economy.

**It gets even better**

Child care has added value

- Makes it possible for parents to work, train and retrain
- Reduces 2<sup>nd</sup> highest cost for families – key to living wage
- Creates educated, creative citizenry – key to competitiveness in the future

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- **Slide 27** – \* Canada is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Learn more at <http://cccabc.bc.ca/res/rights.html> for the CCCABC Rights Project.

**Child Care is a Right!**

Countries that have made an investment in the early years, haven't done so because of school-readiness or economic competitiveness, but because they believe that every child in their society has the **RIGHT** to the best possible beginning.

Canada says our children have those rights.\*  
It's time for our governments to put their money where their mouth is!

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- **Slide 28 – 31** – show

**The very best news..**

**The majority of BC agrees!**  
September 2008 Environics poll:

- 77% of Canadians think lack of affordable child care is serious problem – **85% in BC**
- 83% of Canadians think governments have important role in helping parents meet their child care needs – **90% in BC**

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**We need you....**

- To be a leader in the child care advocacy movement
- Become informed –  
"Child Care is a Right"  
"The Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning"
- **Be an Informer!**



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- Thank everyone for coming, and going back to the faces you drew at the beginning, would any of you change them? Do you feel more informed and are you prepared to talk to others about why we need a public investment in quality early care and learning?
- (If you have evaluation forms hand out) We ask you to please take a moment and fill out the evaluation forms provided... and thank you again.

### For more information

- The Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning.
- Child Care is a Right Project
- Building Advocacy Leadership Capacity

Visit the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC Website: <http://www.cccabc.bc.ca>  
 And the Early Childhood Educators of BC : <http://www.ecebc.ca/>

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### Additional Resources

- Child Care Human Resource Sector Council : <http://www.ccscc-cssge.ca/english/>
- First Call Child and Youth Advocacy <http://www.firstcallbc.org/>
- Human Early Learning Partnership UBC <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/>
- BCGEU Child Care Campaign page [http://bcgeu.ca/campaigns\\_and\\_issues/childcare](http://bcgeu.ca/campaigns_and_issues/childcare)

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### And to contact us

- [advocacyleadership@cccabc.bc.ca](mailto:advocacyleadership@cccabc.bc.ca)

Thank you!



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