

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

CHILD CARE 101



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Child Care

 On the one hand – it's complex

 On the other – it's simple

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1. The need is real... mothers are in the labour force to stay.
2. The evidence is in... quality care is good for children, families and the economy.
3. Current policies have failed... BC child care is in crisis.
4. There are solutions... other places do it, so can we.

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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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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/illegal
 - 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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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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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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FEES

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 \$7,980 a year – Infant/Toddler spaces are 50% more or higher! *

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FEES

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 2nd highest family expense after housing. (For fees in your community - ask your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program)

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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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WHY?

Failed policies

child care school

- Patchwork not system



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

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WHY?

Failed policies

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

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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!

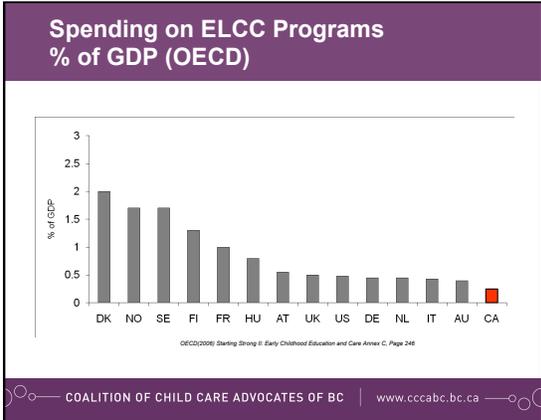
There are solutions!

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



Rates of Participation in ELCC Programs for 3-5 year olds (OECD)





The sad truth:

Canada ranks *last* in its investment in ECD !

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Sweden	10
Iceland	9
Denmark	8
Finland	8
France	8
Norway	8
Belgium (Flanders)	6
Hungary	6
New Zealand	6
Slovenia	6
Austria	5
Netherlands	5
United Kingdom*	5
Germany	4
Italy	4
Japan	4
Portugal	4
Republic of Korea	4
Mexico	3
Spain	3
Switzerland	3
United States	3
Australia	2
Canada	1
Ireland	1

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

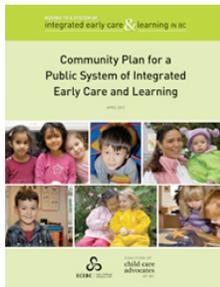
Only one benchmark achieved – child care staff training

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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. *

What should it look like?



The tried and still true arguments

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



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)

It gets even better

Child care has added value

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

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!

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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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.ccsc-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

And to contact us

- advocacyleadership@cccabc.bc.ca

Thank you!