



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

February 22, 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

BC Budget 2012 = No good news for families with young children

The Premier says this Budget is “giving families a break”... Not so says Sharon Gregson from the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. “I see parents everyday who are struggling to pay high child care fees just so they can go to work to pay the bills, or parents who are in crisis because they can’t find or afford a quality child care space.”

The 2012 Service Plan for the Ministry of Children & Family Development says “families can choose from a range of affordable, safe, quality child care options that meet their unique needs.” That is simply **not true** in British Columbia today. The reality is that because of sky-high user fees and far too few spaces, families have virtually no options at all and the majority have to ‘make-do’ with unregulated child care.

Instead of investing in a system of Early Care and Learning that supports parents so that they can go to work, we see costs rising for families, such as MSP premiums increasing again.

What will it take for government to listen to parents, listen to the economic evidence, listen to child development research, and look at what is being done so successfully in other places?

BC urgently needs investment into a child care system that:

- Substantially increases the number of spaces available,
- Reduces parent fees to \$10/day,
- Offers no charge to families who earn less than \$40,000/year, and
- Improves the wages and education of early childhood educators.

A child care system that does all this **will** pay for itself, as it does in Quebec through increased payroll and consumption taxes paid by 17,000 more working parents. Evidence shows that even businesses will benefit when their employees have access to an affordable, quality child care system.

--- 30 ---

For more information see www.cccabc.bc.ca/plan