



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

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Susan Harney, chairperson of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, is shocked by comments made by the new provincial Minister of Education. As reported by Sean McIntyre on September 2nd 2009, Minister MacDiarmid commented that, “the people of B.C. have not voiced a strong demand for subsidized daycare services”.

“The Minister is very, very mistaken,” says Harney “and I’d like to offer her the opportunity to meet with child care advocates to be correctly informed on the issue of child care waiting lists and recent opinion polls.”

Waiting lists are years long for infant and toddler care and parent fees are skyrocketing, so families are unable to afford quality child care even if they can find a space. With more women in the Canadian workforce today than at any other time in Canadian history, we need a publicly funded child care system that is high quality, affordable and accessible now more than ever.

“Clearly Minister MacDiarmid is out of touch with what BC families need,” says parent of two young daughters, Julie Linkletter. For instance, results of a mid-August 2009 poll by Ipsos Reid showed that 76 percent of those surveyed supported creating a new childcare program to help working families.

An Angus Reid Strategies poll released by the Vancouver Sun in August 2009 showed only one out of 10 British Columbians with kids is happy about the affordability of daycare. That’s not surprising as the monthly fee a family pays for a two year old and a four year old in licensed child care can be as high as \$1,775 per month in metro Vancouver.

Furthermore, an Environics Research poll in September 2008 affirms that over three-quarters of Canadians (higher in BC) believe government has an important role to play in addressing the lack of affordable child care.

Even years of economic growth and big surpluses didn’t solve BC’s child care crisis and now that the economy is in trouble, some say we just have to wait. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates couldn’t disagree more. Public investment in quality child care is one of the best infrastructure investments and so we invite the Minister to meet with us to be better informed.

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