



July 6, 2005

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Room 156
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Campbell:

On behalf of the British Columbia Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress, we are writing to you to emphasize the importance we place on having all provinces participate in a national childcare system.

As you well know, the labour movement has long-favoured the introduction of a national childcare program. We were pleased that the federal government followed up its campaign promises by allocating funds for this initiative in the current Budget.

We had hoped that there would have been a National Child Care Act that supported the QUAD principles of Quality, Universally inclusive, Accessible and Developmental childcare programs, by setting forth standards and accountability. Because this goal was not achieved, the federal government and provincial governments have started to sign bilateral agreements.

We were very pleased with the Manitoba agreement and its commitment to meet the objectives of the agreement “by making investments in [its] community-based non-profit early learning and childcare centres.” With such scarce resources already going to childcare, it would be unfortunate to subtract any of these monies to provide an 8 percent or 12 percent profit margin from already limited resources available to our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

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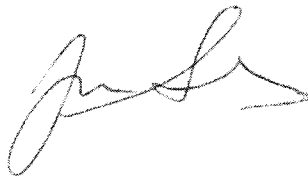
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We are writing to urge that the British Columbia government also take the approach of community-based non-profit delivery in its agreement with the federal government. We believe that this approach is the best one which will enable British Columbia to meet the social needs of its children and their families.

Yours sincerely,



Kenneth V. Georgetti
President
Canadian Labour Congress



Jim Sinclair
President
British Columbia Federation of Labour

cc CLC Executive Council
 CLC Officers and Executive Assistants
 CLC National & Regional Directors
 BCFL Executive Council
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 Hon. Linda Reid, Minister of State for Childcare
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