

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

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

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Municipal Elections Get Out the Child Care Votes

On **November 19th, 2005** municipal elections will be held across BC. We know that communities that advocate for child care can motivate civic politicians to take an interest and provide leadership.

For example, in Vancouver, where a majority of City Council, School Board and Park Board have all been 'pro child care', real progress has been possible. Vancouver increased its own support for child care and advocated for provincial and federal action. As BC gets ready to spend over \$600 million of federal child care money, this kind of strong municipal leadership will be key.

What can child care advocates do?

- Talk about the critical role that your municipality and school district must play in working with the community and the provincial government to develop a publicly funded, comprehensive, accessible, regulated, high quality child care system that is accountable for all public funds.
- "Think child care" and share your ideas about what's working and what's not. Write letters to the local newspapers. Talk about it with co-workers, neighbours, family and friends.
- Attend all-candidate meetings and ask questions and contact local politicians to ask them about their vision for child care in your community.
- Participate in the upcoming elections and encourage others too. **Vote child care and take 3 other pro child care voters to the polls with you.**

Some Questions for Municipal and School Board Candidates

1. What role do you see the municipal government and school board playing in the development of child care in our community?
2. If elected, what leadership would you provide to ensure that the school district and municipal council put and keep child care on the agenda?
3. In what ways can local funding support child care?
4. If elected, what leadership would you provide to ensure the new federal funding for child care is used by the provincial government to create new child care spaces, lower parent fees and raise caregiver wages?