

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

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

3rd Floor, 210 West Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia V5Y 3W2
tel: 604.709.5661 www.cccabc.bc.ca fax: 604.709.5662

April 11, 2006

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

To Mayor and Council

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) is shocked and dismayed at City Council's decision to cut Vancouver's Child and Youth Advocate Office.

Since the late 1980's the CCCABC has applauded Vancouver's leadership on issues affecting children and youth. We have actively supported the City's commitment to child care – an initiative that had its origins during the first Advocate's term of office. And, in our work with other advocates across Canada, we have proudly cited Vancouver's commitment to ensuring that the needs of families with children are considered across all civic departments.

Your decision to end this legacy took the community by surprise. During the civic election, not one candidate campaigned on a platform of cutting the position. In the discussions leading up to your budget decisions, no one said they planned to cut the position. Your Senior Staff's budget recommendations did not include this cut. Had you been open and frank about your intentions, we, along with many others, would have strongly advised you to keep the Office.

In 2001, the provincial government made a similar decision and cut the independent provincial Child, Youth and Family Advocate. We are all too aware of the resulting tragedies that are now driving the province to change its mind about the value of an independent voice for children. Surely, we don't need to repeat this mistake in Vancouver.

We are therefore calling on you to immediately reinstate the Child and Youth Advocate.

Susan Harney
Chairperson
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC