

PRESS RELEASE

November 20, 2006

DAD'S SPEAK OUT FOR CHILD CARE

Today is National Child Day. A group of Dads in Nelson, BC have come together to speak out about child care and the important role it plays for their children, their family and the community. They want Canadians to understand that the fact that families who need child care and cannot access it, is short sighted and is affecting Canada's families and economy.

"We have the research, we know how important the early years are for a child's development and we know that quality child care is good for kids," states respected child psychologist Dr. Todd Kettner. We also know that families all across this country that need child care cannot find it."

"They need child care so they can go to work or attend school" states economist Mike Stolte, Executive Director of the Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurial Leadership. "Child care is not only good for kids, it's good for our economy. Investing in child care has excellent return on investment. When parents can't work our economy doesn't run at maximum efficiency. Here in Nelson and in communities across Canada we are increasingly hearing stories from parents who are quitting their jobs or turning down work because there is no child care."

Murray Kimber, Board member of the Kootenay Kids Society and international artist is frustrated by the lack of leadership shown by the Canadian government. "The new \$100 per month universal child care allowance for parents is a joke. No one would argue that some families can use additional money to help raise their children, but this allowance does not address the lack of child care. \$100 per month will not build desperately needed child care spaces. Nor does it come close to the cost of child care which on average costs families \$600 per month."

Kettner, Stolte and Kimber will be holding a press conference on Wednesday November 22, at 2:00 at 518 Lake St. where they will be issuing a Call to Action for Dad's across the country to speak out on behalf of their families.

For more information contact Murray Kimber.