

Child Care Advocacy Forum

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Participating Organizations:

BC Association of Child
Care Services

Coalition of Child
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of BC

Early Childhood Educators
of BC

School Age Child
Care Association

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada Family
Child Care Association of
BC

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Child Care Advocates of
BC

PROTECTING THE PROGRESS

Well, the provincial election is over and, as expected, the Liberal Party has formed a majority government. Thanks to everyone who spoke out about child care. Through your work, many candidates know that child care matters to their constituents.

Our job now is to **PROTECT THE CHILD CARE B.C. ACT**
by convincing every MLA that
Child Care B.C. is the right thing to do!

The next month gives us an opportunity to make our case. Here's what you can do:

1. **Meet with your MLA.** The purpose of your meeting is to:
 - Let your MLA know that **full implementation of the Child Care B.C. Act is essential for your community.** Share specifics about the local child care situation. Make sure your MLA knows that, under this Act, infant/toddler care and school-aged spaces in family child care are scheduled to receive funding on January 2, 2002. Remind him or her that a failure to move ahead will leave children, families and services at risk!
 - **Become your MLA's child care contact.** Before the election, the Liberals said that child care needed more study and consultation. While we don't know when or how they intend to consult let's make sure that all MLA's know whom to contact in their ridings for accurate information and informed perspectives.
2. Collect signatures and send copies of the attached **letter to Premier Campbell.** Let's make sure that he knows that thousands of British Columbians expect him to 'do the right thing' for children and families.

As always, our first choice is to work constructively with government to build a publicly funded child care system - but we also need to be prepared to take action if the progress we have achieved to date begins to unravel.

*Remember - across the country, B.C. is now seen as a leader in child care.
By working together - the progress we have achieved can continue!*

May 29, 2001