

Child Care Advocacy Forum

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BC Association
of Child Care
Services

Coalition of Child
Care Advocates
of BC

Early Childhood
Educators of BC

School Aged
Child Care
Association

Westcoast Child
Care Resource
Centre

Western Canada
Family Child
Care Association
of BC

MLA MEETING PACKAGE

Thank you for agreeing to organize a meeting with your MLA.

The campaign to respond to the discussion paper - “Building a Better Future for B.C. Kids” is off to a great start - but our work is far from done!

While many of you have told Minister Sihota that we expect action, we still do not have a firm commitment from government to act. Daily we hear that the budget is frozen and that major decisions are on hold until the NDP elects a new leader.

It is time for us to turn up the heat - so here is some information to help you set up a meeting with your MLA!

Our top priority between now and the Holiday Break is to have parents, child care providers and advocates **meet with every NDP MLA** in their own constituencies. We believe that this is the way to make child care a top priority with the NDP caucus and government.

We are including the following materials to help with your meeting:

- a **tip sheet** to help you prepare for the meeting
- a suggested **agenda** for the meeting
- some good responses to things your MLA might say
- a copy of our **Common Agenda and Vision** for Child Care Services in B.C. to leave with your MLA
- a copy of the Child Care Advocacy Forum's **Response to the discussion paper** to leave with your MLA.
- an **MLA Meeting Report Form** to send us after your meeting

If your MLA is not in the NDP, you should still try to meet with them. Ask them if they will push the government to act on child care and what they will do for child care if their party forms the next government.

In the meantime, keep **those letters coming!** So far, Minister Sihota has received over 4000 letters but we can't stop until we reach our target of 30,000 letters. We also need more individualized letters from parents, caregivers and organizations. So, even though Nov. 19 has come and gone - **keep on writing.**

Please make an appointment with your MLA today!

Call us at our new phone numbers (including our toll free line - 1-877-361-1116) and let us know how its going in your community.

The members of the Child Care Advocacy Forum want to thank everyone who is working so hard on this campaign. We wish you all a very happy Holiday Season and New Year. May 2000 be a year of real victories for children and child care.