

Child Care Advocacy Forum

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Participating Organizations:

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

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“MINISTER SIHOTA, THERE ARE ACHIEVABLE CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS”

Today, Minister Moe Sihota took a bold and important step in releasing his working paper on child care - “Building A Better Future for British Columbia’s Kids”. The paper provides an honest and accurate description of the current realities facing children, families and child care services in B.C.

Minister Sihota acknowledges that many of B.C.’s families and children still cannot access high quality, affordable early childhood services and he is calling for a broad public discussion about how we can solve the problem.

In response, Susan Harney of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C., says:

“We know there are solutions for child care but it will take political will and public investment at the federal and provincial levels. When we look at Quebec’s child care initiative, we see what can happen when there is a commitment to build a system that provides all children with access to quality services.”

The other members of the Child Care Advocacy Forum agree and offer Minister Sihota and his federal counterparts the following advice:

- All of the ‘first step’ options put forward by Minister Sihota to address the immediate problems of affordability and accessibility will be welcomed by many families and child care services. However, these are only short term measures.
- The agenda we need is one that entitles ALL children to access quality early childhood services, regardless of the economic or employment status of their parents.
- This will require a significant increase in funding from the federal and provincial governments so that child care can move from the current user fee system to one that, like other public programs, is funded through the tax system.

Minister Sihota says he is committed to solving the problem - we applaud his initiative. He says that the province can’t do it alone. We couldn’t agree more and add our voices to those calling on the federal government to make child care a priority in the next budget. And, Sihota is asking for public input. We welcome the opportunity to participate, but **we remind government that the situation is urgent and our children can’t wait.**

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