

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES AND WORKSHOPS

The BC Child Care Advocacy Forum delivered a number of presentations and workshops at federal, provincial and regional conferences and gatherings. We also hosted Regional Networking Sessions in a number of communities. These titles and descriptions are examples of some of these presentations.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Child Care in BC – An Advocate’s Perspective

Increasingly, early childhood educators understand that their ability to provide the best possible care for children depends on public policies that support quality, inclusive, accessible child care. In her keynote address, Rita Chudnovsky will provide an Advocate’s perspective on the ‘hot’ issues facing child care and early childhood educators in BC today. She will help us see the links between sometimes abstract and distant policy discussions about child care and the daily ‘on the ground’ experiences of children, families and early childhood educators. Based on two decades of advocacy experience, Rita will share some of her conclusions about why Canada is one of the few industrialized countries in the world without a comprehensive child care system and about what it is we need to do together to get one.

‘Values Added’ Advocacy

At its root – advocacy is about values. It is about valuing children, families and communities for who we are today and for what we can become tomorrow. Yet, sometimes our values are so much part of who we are that we fail to talk about them openly and proudly. In this keynote address, Rita Chudnovsky will encourage us to reaffirm the values that guide our work for and with young children. She will reflect on the values of Canada’s child care advocacy movement and will challenge and inspire us to put our values front and centre in the work before us.

WORKSHOPS

The Child Care Advocacy Agenda

Increasingly, early childhood educators understand that their ability to provide the best possible care for children depends on the effectiveness of our advocacy for public policies that support quality, inclusive accessible child care. Join experienced federal and provincial advocates for an up-to-date discussion about:

- The current state of child care policy and funding in BC and Canada
- The advocacy movement’s analysis of the current situation
- Current advocacy campaigns and messages

Building Our Advocacy Skills

Today, it is more important than ever for early childhood educators to be effective advocates. Join Rita Chudnovsky, Facilitator of the BC Child Care Advocacy Forum and long time advocate, for an interactive workshop on how we can use effective systemic advocacy skills and strategies to keep child care on the public agenda.

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Explore the interrelated roles of individual, service and systemic advocacy
- Identify key elements of effective systemic advocacy
- Develop key messages and strategies for effective child care advocacy at the provincial and federal level.

Effective Advocacy Voices

This interactive workshop will help participants become more effective 'voices' for child care in their communities. Together we will explore advocacy that changes public attitudes, perceptions and behaviours. Participants will be introduced to 'Seven Steps of Advocacy' and will have a chance to consider key advocacy messages, campaigns and strategies that lead to better outcomes for children, families and communities.

What's Hot and What's Not in Child Care Advocacy

Over the last six months, BC family and child care providers have been dealing with our province's response to the loss of \$455 million in federal funds dedicated for child care. What this means for BC child care providers and the services they provide in group, family and school-aged settings is troubling indeed! This workshop will provide an update of the federal, provincial and community child care scene. Through interactive discussion and hands on activities, participants will build hot advocacy messages to keep child care front and centre on the public's agenda.

REGIONAL NETWORK SESSIONS

Invitation

The BC Child Care Advocacy Forum, an alliance of six provincial child care organizations, is committed to working collaboratively with child care and early childhood advocates across BC. We need to learn from each other so that:

- our advocacy messages reflect the experiences of children, families and service providers in diverse communities
- we can effectively get our messages out to a growing audience.

Join Rita Chudnovsky, the Facilitator of the BC Child Care Advocacy Forum for a discussion about your regional advocacy issues and initiatives, provincial advocacy priorities and strategies for supporting each other's advocacy efforts. Please come and add your voice and ideas.

Regional Networking Discussion Questions

- What ECD/child care tables and networks exist in this community? What are their mandates (information sharing, coordination, service planning, funding, advocacy)?
- What are the activities and priorities of these tables? Is child care represented and on the agenda of these tables?
- What are the key child care issues in your communities?
- How strong are the links between child care advocacy and advocacy for early childhood in this region? Are there barriers to strengthening these links?
- What advice do you have for the Advocacy Forum about ways to ensure that child care is part and parcel of the broader ECD advocacy agenda?