

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 Age Child Care
Association

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada Family
Child Care Association
of BC

Funding and Support provided by:

Status of Women Canada
- BC/Yukon Region
through Coalition of Child
Care Advocates of BC



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BC Works if Child Care Works

Child care makes important contributions to society. This fact sheet provides information about the positive impact of professionally delivered, regulated child care – with a range of options – to the economy and labour force.

Here are some of the reasons why BC works better if child care works well.

- **Publicly funded, comprehensive child care creates opportunities for parents to engage in paid work and/or study.**

Knowing that their children are well cared for by qualified staff in high quality programs, parents are confident in their decision to use child care services and are better able to advance in their chosen careers.

With parents now paying \$1.35 BILLION for BC's child care services and government paying \$188 million, child care remains unaffordable for many parents – despite subsidy programs which are only available to parents with very low or no income. Meeting child care needs should not require a choice for parents between quality care and career or training commitments.

- **Regulated child care programs employ skilled, educated professionals who are committed to caring for our society's children.**

Thousands of jobs across this province are held by trained child care workers and managers. A properly funded, comprehensive child care system would ensure that qualified individuals who chose to care for infants and children were able to work in their field of choice, and receive reasonable wages and benefits for their vital work.

- **Publicly funded, comprehensive child care services create benefits for all of us, whether or not we have children and whether or not we use the services.**

In their publication *The Benefits and Costs of Good Child Care: A Policy Study (1998)*, Cleveland and Krashinsky conclude that, if we offered child care to all Canadian children aged two to five, the immediate benefit to our economy would equal \$6,240,000. This includes greater employability for parents, higher income and taxes paid by parents, and savings to the social welfare system.

Down the road, there would be similar economic benefits projected for the children, because positive, nurturing environments in the first years of life are linked to academic and career success. In the long run, a comprehensive child care system would offer a \$2 return to children, parents and society for every dollar invested.

Of course, the bottom line for any child care system is that it works for the children it serves. If child care works well, children get the care and support they need to develop to their fullest potential. In future years, they will be able to help BC work to its fullest potential.

Child Care – The Place to Start