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BC Association of
Child Care Employers

Coalition of Child Care
Advocates of BC

Early Childhood
Educators of BC

School Age Child Care
Association of BC

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada Family
Child Care Association of BC

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BC'S CHILD CARE DELIVERABLES

On May 20, 2008 in response to a question from Claire Trevena (the Opposition Child Care Critic), Linda Reid, BC's Minister of State for Child Care said "Everything the sector (child care) has asked for has been delivered." On May 22, in response to a question about what parents who are losing their child care in Whistler are supposed to do, Minister Reid reiterated that her government has responded to the community's request for deliverables.

To set the record straight:

- In 2001/02, the province cut over \$40 million from its annual budget on child care. ***The province has yet to deliver on community requests that these funds be restored.***
- In 2007, BC was the only province to respond to the loss of dedicated federal child care dollars with more cuts to child care. ***The province has yet to deliver on community requests that these cuts be reversed.***
- In 2006/07, BC spent \$95.4 million of remaining federal child care funds on one-time-only expenditures — many of which had little if anything to do with child care. ***The province has yet to deliver on community requests for adequate, stable and accountable child care funding.***
- From 2001 to 2006, average annual child care fees for pre-school aged children in BC went up by \$672. For school-aged care, the increase was more than \$800.¹ ***The province has yet to deliver on community requests that child care fees come down.***
- In 2006, the median gross hourly wage for BC's college-trained caregivers in group child care centres was \$12.58.² ***The province has yet to deliver on community requests that providers' wages go up.***
- Since 2004, BC has separated planning and funding for child care from planning and funding for early learning. As a result, publicly funded early learning programs that do not meet the needs of working families are opening their doors while existing child care services struggle to keep theirs open. ***The province has yet to deliver on community requests that this split come to an end.***

While provinces like Manitoba and Alberta develop and implement Child Care Plans, BC has yet to deliver on the community's request for a 5 year plan with targets and timelines for building the child care system that BC children and families need and deserve.

¹ Beach and Friendly, Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada, 2001 and 2006

² Beach and Friendly, Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada, 2006.