

Child Care Advocacy Forum

#300 - 210 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Y 3W2
Phone: (604) 515-6257
Toll Free: 1-877-361-1116
Fax: (604) 709-5662
www.cccabc.bc.ca/forum

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 of BC

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



VANCOUVER
FOUNDATION

Post-Election Update Child Care is on the Federal Agenda! July, 2004

What do the Federal Election Results mean for Child Care?

As the dust settles from the federal election, it is clear that we have a unique opportunity to make real progress on our child care agenda.

During the election, the federal Liberals promised a Canada wide child care program based on the principles of quality, universality, affordability and developmentally appropriate programs. They also promised to increase federal funding by \$5 billion over 5 years. Since the election, Prime Minister Martin continues to say that child care is a top priority of his government.

However, since the Liberals only won enough seats to form a minority government, they will need the support of MPs from other parties to act.

The federal NDP identifies child care as one of their top electoral commitments and their leader, Jack Layton, continues to publicly affirm his party's commitment to child care. The Bloc Quebecois supports Quebec's publicly funded, universally accessible child care system and wants a fair share of federal funds for this system.

If these two parties make action on child care a condition of their support for the Liberal Minority government – there will be sufficient political consensus to make child care the first new social program in decades.

Who Are the Key Players?

On July 20th, Paul Martin appointed the Honourable Ken Dryden as the Minister of Social Development – with responsibility for developing a national child care program. (Yes, the very same Hockey Hall of Fame legend Ken Dryden.) Minister Dryden says that he is up to the challenge.

Jack Layton appointed Tony Martin as the NDP critic for child care. Mr. Martin, a former Ontario provincial politician, has a track record of action on child welfare and anti-poverty issues, including unwavering support for regulated child care. He says he is keen to get active on the child care file as soon as possible.

What Can You Do?

Given the history of broken federal promises on child care, we cannot take anything for granted. The first federal Throne Speech is set for October 5, 2004. Let's make sure child care is front and centre in government's plans. Here's what you can do:

- ✓ Support the Keep The Promise Campaign initiated by the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada. (CCAAC) at www.childcareadvocacy.ca/action/promises.html
- ✓ Contact your federal Member of Parliament, especially the new ones, to make sure they know that child care matters to you. (MP and Ministers email addresses are available at http://canada.gc.ca/directories/direct_e.html)
- ✓ Email the Minister of Social Development, the Honourable Ken Dryden and tell him that you are counting on him to make the Liberal election promises a reality.
- ✓ Check the CCAAC website at www.childcareadvocacy.ca regularly for new federal campaigns.