

On June 10 and 11 Flood the Faxes for Child Care!

The situation in child care is still urgent.

Let your MLA know that if the government doesn't take action - the community will!

On Friday, May 28, government reached an historic settlement with striking community social services workers. And, after months of claiming that 'child care' would not be included in a settlement - the government responded to united community and union action and promised a 'separate but comparable' deal for the unionized child care agencies that have been part of joint negotiations.

This is an important victory. Centres are open again, children and families are receiving the care and support they need and the staff of these centres have been promised fair and equitable treatment with other community social service workers.

But, government has now made it clear that the rest of the child care sector will not share in the benefits of the agreement. Unlike 450 other community social services, 1500 child care agencies not involved in the recent negotiations will receive no additional funds. The only way they will be able to match or come close to the terms of the agreement is to raise parent fees. But parents are already paying over \$1 billion annually in child care fees in B.C and they can't pay any more!

Our message to government is simple: By October 1, 1999 we want

- Fair and equitable access for the child care sector to the wages and benefits of the recently negotiated settlement at no additional cost to parents.
- A commitment to and plan for a publicly funded child care system that provides all children and families with access to a range of quality, regulated child care services.

The following organizations are calling on members, parents and advocates to:

Flood the faxes of MLAs and Cabinet Ministers on June 10 and 11

(If you can't FAX on June 10 or 11 - do it as soon as possible)

Attached is a 1 page FAX message and a list of FAX numbers. Add your name, address, phone number and additional comments to the bottom of the FAX.

The B.C. Association of Child Care Services
The Coalition of Child Care Advocates
The Early Childhood Educators of B.C.
The School Aged Child Care Association of B.C.
Western Canada Family Child Care Association

URGENT FAX

99-06-10

To: Members of the Legislative Assembly Of B.C.
Members of B.C. Provincial Cabinet

Re: **Why Not Child Care?**

On Friday, May 28, government negotiators reached a tentative settlement with striking community social services workers. And, after months of claiming that 'child care' would not be included in the settlement - the government responded to united community and union action and promised a 'separate but comparable' deal for the unionized child care agencies that have been part of joint negotiations.

But, government has now made it clear that the rest of the child care sector will not share in the benefits of the agreement. Unlike 450 other community social services, 1500 child care agencies not involved in the recent negotiations will receive no additional funds. The only way they will be able to match or come close to the terms of the agreement is to raise parent fees. But parents are already paying over \$1 billion annually in child care fees in B.C and they can't pay any more!

Our message to you, our elected representatives, is simple. By October 1, 1999 we are calling on government to:

- Provide fair and equitable access for the child care sector to the wages and benefits of the recently negotiated settlement at no additional cost to parents.
- Commit to and plan for a publicly funded child care system that provides all children and families with access to a range of quality, regulated child care services.

As your constituent, and as a resident of B.C. who is concerned about children and families in our province - I am asking for your support.