

# **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 Aged  
Child Care  
Association

Westcoast Child  
Care Resource  
Centre

Western Canada  
Family Child  
Care Association  
of BC

March 8, 2000

Dear Minister,

The members of the Child Care Advocacy Forum wish to extend our congratulations to you on your recent appointment to Cabinet.

The Child Care Advocacy Forum is an alliance of 6 provincial child care organizations that brings together close to 4000 parents, child care providers and organizations. We and our partners are working for a publicly funded child care system that entitles all children access to quality early childhood services, regardless of the economic or employment status of their families. Over the last five months, thousands of British Columbians have told your government that they support our vision and expect action on child care now.

Child care also emerged as a pivotal issue during the recent leadership race and a number of commitments were made. Delegates at the recent NDP convention unanimously adopted the 7 point child care agenda of the Child Care Advocacy Forum and called on your government to "work with child care advocacy groups to develop legislation to achieve the objectives of the Child Care Agenda" (Resolution Q-2000-01). Premier Dosanjh is on record as supporting access to quality, affordable child care for all families and has spoken strongly about the need for federal and provincial action on child care since his election.

We know that you face many important issues and challenges - but we fully expect that you will give top priority to action on **child care**. We are therefore calling on you and your Cabinet colleagues to immediately:

- **Develop and implement a 5 year plan that moves child care from the current user fee system to one that is publicly funded.**
- **Make a significant new investment in child care in the upcoming provincial budget..**
- **Tell the Federal Government that B.C. is ready and willing to make child care a priority in the National Children's Agenda.**

As always, we look forward to a cooperative and constructive working relationship with you to ensure that the needs of children and families are met. We have been patient while your government resolved its leadership question, but we cannot accept any more delays because:

## **OUR CHILDREN CAN'T WAIT!**

Darcelle Cottons, BC Association of Child Care Services  
Susan Harney, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C.  
Sheila Davidson, Early Childhood Educators of B.C.  
Ruth Sullivan, School Age Child Care Association of B.C.  
Sherrie Jamieson, Western Canada Family Child Care Association  
Karen Norman, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre