

# **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

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Care Advocates of  
BC

United Way of the  
Lower Mainland -  
First Years First



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September 16, 2000

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh  
Parliament Buildings, Room 156, West Annex  
PO Box 9041, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

FAX: (250) 387-0087

Dear Premier Dosanjh,

On behalf of the Child Care Advocacy Forum, I wish to express our congratulations and support for the consistent leadership you are providing on the child care agenda at the provincial and intergovernmental levels. It has been an historic week for child care and we are particularly encouraged that:

- on September 14, you announced that the first phase of B.C.'s new child care initiative will now include kindergarten children who are enrolled in licensed before and after school care. We have consistently advocated for this change since the new child care initiative was announced. Your government's willingness to include Kindergarten children within the \$14 a day parent fee, indicates that the community consultation process initiated by Minister Pullinger is working!
- on September 14, along with the Honourable Jane Stewart, you also confirmed B.C.'s commitment to spend new federal funds for Early Childhood Development Services on child care. We trust that your government will follow the advice provided by First Call on the distribution of these funds (2/3 for child care and 1/3 for family support/special services/pre and perinatal services). We were particularly pleased to hear you say that, along with many other Canadians, you are still committed to a national child care program. So are we, and we will continue to work to ensure this goal is achieved.

The Advocacy Forum commends the First Ministers for reaching an agreement on Early Childhood Development. After many years of inaction, the agreement is a significant first step. However, we are concerned that it falls short of making a commitment to a comprehensive system that entitles all children access to quality early childhood services. Under the current agreement, there is no guarantee that the limited funds available will be used to address child care needs. Your leadership in keeping child care front and centre sets a benchmark and will help make the case for comparable action across the country. Our job now is to ensure that B.C.'s initiative receives the political and financial support it needs to make it a model of success.

Sincerely,

Rita Chudnovsky, Facilitator  
Child Care Advocacy Forum

cc. The Honourable Jan Pullinger