

On the Record...

Throughout the 'nineties, bureaucrats and politicians have indicated an understanding of child care's importance. That understanding and a commitment to supporting and strengthening BC's child care sector have been articulated in statements such as those below -- all of them on the record.

"Quality child care gives children a head start by encouraging them to grow and learn and develop the skills they'll need later in life."

-- Joy MacPhail, Vancouver-Hastings MLA, MCF press release 1999:007, Jan. 28, 1999

"Children are important members of our community. I'm pleased that our government can help child care operators provide quality programs where children can play, learn and grow in safety."

-- Dale Lovick, Nanaimo MLA, MCF press release 1998:074, Dec. 23, 1998

"I am pleased to be part of a government that helps child care operators provide safe, quality experiences for children in their community....Our priority is to help centres provide quality, affordable care that supports the needs of families and local communities."

-- Lois Boone, Minister for Children and Families, MCF press release 1998:069, Dec. 7, 1998

"The [Child, Youth and Family Advocate] emphasizes early intervention programs, and our programs...are a solid investment in the lives of children and families. By offering supports earlier, children can grow up in healthier, safer environments."

-- Lois Boone, Minister for Children and Families, MCF press release 1998:02, May 7, 1998

"Today we know, more than ever before, the importance of a child's earliest years in shaping their development....By supporting communities in creating quality child care spaces, we provide opportunities for parents and safe, caring places for children to learn and grow."

-- Penny Priddy, Minister for Children and Families, MCF press release 1997:093, Dec. 9, 1997

"The Wage Supplement Initiative was introduced...as the first step in a long term strategy to financially recognize the contributions of child care workers. As child care is included in the public sector low wage redress strategy, we have had to wait for Treasury Board approval before proceeding with the 1995/96 increases."

-- David Gilbert, Director, MCF Child Care Branch, letter to child care operators, Feb. 26, 1996

"There has been an agreement with managers or child care providers that the 'low wage redress' ...will be used for wages only....The Community Social Services Employers' Association, which includes representatives from the child care sector, will be working on this in the following years. The Public Sector Employers' Council is responsible for addressing compensation and human resource practices in the broad public sector....

"While I talk about child care workers being the lowest paid in the human service area, it does not get away from the fact that most human service areas are low paid....For contracted human services ...we have had a coordinated program of increases to provide for fairer wages....That will then become, as with child care workers, the responsibility of the Public Sector Employers' Council, which has a responsibility for addressing the issues of fair wage compensation across the public sector.

-- Penny Priddy, Minister of Women's Equality, 1994 Legislative Session:3rd Session, Apr 20, 1994

“The Child Care Wage Supplement Initiative is one part of government’s commitment to providing high quality child care that meets the needs of families at a cost they can afford....The well-being of British Columbia’s children and families is a top priority for the British Columbia government.”

-- Penny Priddy, Minister for Women’s Equality, letter to child care societies, Apr. 5, 1994

“The child care wage supplement initiative is intended to be a first step towards addressing the low wages of child care staff. Future alternatives to address low wages will be considered as part of the recently announced consolidation of child care funding.

“In addition, the child care sector will be represented in the newly formed Community Social Services Employers’ Association (CSSEA) which is a member of the Public Sector Employers’ Council (PSEC). This offers an opportunity to address ongoing wage issues for child care staff, and for child care employers to have a voice in CSSEA.”

-- Jane Beach, Director of MCF’s Child Care Branch, letter to child care societies, Dec. 31, 1993

“1.01 (a) In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (2) ‘community social services’ ...includes:
 - (iv) daycare and related early childhood services”

“2.02 (a) The association shall have the following membership divisions:

- (1) child care and related early childhood services;”

“2.01 The members of the association are:

- (a) employers designated as public sector employers under the provisions of Part 1 section 1(g) of the *Public Sector Employers Act*;
- (b) employers receiving provincial government funding for the provision of community social services and accepted by the association on a voluntary basis;”

-- Community Social Services Employers’ Association By-laws, Oct. 1998

Prepared by the Child Care Advocacy Forum, June 1999. The Child Care Advocacy Forum is an alliance of the following child care 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 and Western Canada Family Child Care Association of BC. For further details, please call The Advocacy Forum at (604) 709-5661.