

Child Care Advocacy Forum

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BC Association of
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Coalition of Child
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Early Childhood
Educators of BC

School Aged Child
Care Association

Westcoast Child
Care Resource
Centre

Western Canada
Family Child Care
Association of BC

February, 2000

One Last Kick at the Can!

Dear friends and colleagues,

Over the last few months, thousands of us have told government that we expect action on child care NOW. Public consensus about the need for a **publicly funded child care system** that entitles all children to affordable, quality child care is strong and growing.

But, our work is not over yet. In February, 2 important events need our urgent attention:

- Paul Martin the Federal Minister of Finance will release the next **Federal Budget** in late February.
- Moe Sihota, the Provincial Minister of Social Development and Economic Security (MSDES) has **extended the deadline** for feedback to his Discussion Paper, "Building a Better Future for B.C.'s Kids", to February 29, 2000. He also released an "Interim Report on Responses to *Building a Better Future for British Columbia's Kids*" which gives some clues about possible provincial directions.

This means that there is still time to influence government decisions! So, we hope that this package will help us all **keep the pressure on for one more month.**

Here's what you can do:

1. **Contact Paul Martin and Your MP**
Tell them you expect a \$2 billion allocation in the next federal budget for child care and early childhood development services. You can reach Mr. Martin at: **Phone:** (613) 992-4284 **Fax:** (613) 992-4291 **E-Mail:** Martin.P@parl.gc.ca
If you haven't already written him, mail the attached letter. (No stamp needed)
2. **Respond to Moe Sihota's Interim Report**
The attached Advocacy Forum's Response to this Interim Report states our position that, while there is a high level of support for a publicly funded child care system, government continues to focus on 'stop gap' measures. Let Sihota know you agree. **FAX the attached letter to Sihota**, calling for a 5 year plan to move to a publicly funded child care system in B.C. (Just add your name and send it).
3. **Keep those letters and postcards coming**
To date, MSDES has received over 8000 responses to "Building A Better Future for B.C. Kids". Wow! But, we still need to **reach our goal of 10,000 responses**. So, use the attached "Postcards", developed by advocates in Terrace, for one last push. (Just copy, cut, distribute and mail. A stamp is required.)

We know how hard everyone has worked to get the message out. Together, we have made an impact. Now it's time to take it over the top. So, we trust that we will all find the time and energy to give it:

One Last Kick at the Can!

Thanks,

Rita Chudnovsky, for the Child Care Advocacy Forum