

Child Care Advocacy Forum

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Participating Organizations

BC Association of
Child Care Employers

Coalition of Child Care
Advocates of BC

Early Childhood
Educators of BC

School Age Child Care
Association of BC

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada
Family Child Care
Association of BC

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No Foreign Ownership of BC Child Care

October 2007

The BC Child Care Advocacy Forum is adding our voice to growing concerns across BC about recent child care developments. We have learned that a foreign-owned corporation is trying to buy out BC child care providers. The same corporation is also making similar efforts in Alberta and Ontario.

This is not an idle threat. 123 Busy Beavers Learning Centres, the company behind the buy out push, is organized and moving quickly. The Calgary Herald reported on Oct. 24 that “at least one large provider in Calgary is believed to have sold some or all of its facilities, effective Nov. 1, to (this) company.” We also know that several BC child care operators have been approached.

The BC Child Care Advocacy Forum is clear that foreign owned corporate child care is NOT the kind of child care that BC children, families or communities want or need. This is not the kind of child care that promotes our Common Vision and Agenda for Child Care Services in BC. (www.advocacyforum.bc.ca/common_agenda.html)

If this foreign take-over proceeds, it will change the face of child care in BC. It will put shareholders' profits first – before community planning, integrated service delivery and responsiveness to the diverse needs of families and communities. In other places where this kind of child care now dominates, parent fees have gone up, service gaps continue and there are concerns about quality.

This may be the most pressing danger the BC child care community has ever faced.

That is why the BC Child Care Advocacy Forum supports the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC's campaign to say NO to foreign control of community-based child care in BC.

Minister Linda Reid's announcement on October 1, 2007 that the BC Major Child Care Capital Funding Program is now open to private child care operators only adds to our concern. **Public funds should not subsidize profits for foreign shareholders.**

Stay tuned to the *BC Child Care — NOT FOR SALE* campaign at www.cccabc.bc.ca for up to date information and actions.