

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 of BC

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada Family
Child Care Association
of BC

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Status of Women Canada
- BC/Yukon Region
through Coalition of Child
Care Advocates of BC



VANCOUVER
FOUNDATION

MAY IS CHILD CARE MONTH

May 2004

The Child Care Advocacy Forum joins advocates, providers, families and communities across BC in marking May as Child Care Month.

Child Care Month is a time to:

- ✓ raise public awareness about the role that quality child care plays in building healthy and strong communities;
- ✓ honour the work of those who care for our children; and
- ✓ remind our elected leaders that they have a responsibility to ensure that ALL children and families in BC have access to quality, affordable care.

For over two decades, communities across BC have developed their own traditions to mark Child Care Month including municipal proclamations, picnics, parades and public education campaigns.

Sometimes, the province also acknowledges Child Care Month with posters, public announcements or events. This year, it looks as if those who are responsible for child care in BC have forgotten all about child care month. Perhaps this isn't surprising, given the harm their funding cuts have done to children, families and quality child care services.

The Child Care Advocacy Forum agrees that this year it is time for the child care community to reclaim child care month as our own.

We encourage our members and supporters to read and circulate the "**Toast to Our Community**" released by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC at <http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/act/ccmonth.html>

All of the organizational members of the Child Care Advocacy Forum share and endorse the sentiment of the Toast.

We commend the families, caregivers and community organizations who continue to work 'on the ground' for quality care – despite government's failings.

For us, Child Care Month 2004 is a time to recommit ourselves to:

- ✓ holding on to our vision for a publicly funded child care system that meets the needs of all;
- ✓ working until we can celebrate the victory of our vision when together we achieve our goal!