

Child Care Advocacy Forum

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BC Association of
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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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through Coalition of
Child Care Advocates of
BC

A REPORT FROM THE CHILD CARE ADVOCACY FORUM

January 24, 2002

Dear Friends,

Since the devastating cuts that were announced last Thursday, the member organizations of the Forum have been trying hard to sort through information and rumour to provide you with the most up to date information as we know it. Here's what we know.

1. Families are being hit hard with numerous cuts to social programs. For a sampling of these cuts contact First Call at www.firstcallbc.org.
2. Eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy will be reduced to a lower income level. This means that many parents who now qualify for full or partial subsidy may no longer qualify. Although changes are not supposed to be in effect immediately, and we understand that guidelines have not been finalized, we need to keep track of any changes in subsidy for parents in our programs.
3. Funding for all Child Care Resource & Referral and One Stop Access programs as well as Westcoast provincial services, will end effective April 1, 2004. Some CCRR's have already been notified. Others have not. The information from the Child Care Branch was that it was their "intention" to maintain services provided by these programs until the April 2004 cut off.
4. The government is promising to amalgamate child care grants into one grant. It is unclear what grants they are talking about or how this changes the current funding process.
5. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services service plan states that the ministry is moving away from provincial regulation to self-regulation and compliance monitoring. "The ministry will move from heavy prescriptive regulations to objective-based codes and standards". We don't know if this ideology will affect Child Care Licensing or not, although there are some rumours that regulations may be cut by 33%.

What can/should we do?

1. Call the Child Care Branch (250-356-5883). Demand to know details of the intended cuts. Ask questions. When will cuts to subsidy happen? Will there be cuts to licensing? Let us know what they say. (Toll free line 1-877-361-1116) or email susanharney@shaw.ca.
2. Western Canada Family Child Care Association is developing strategies for organizing parents opposed to the cuts. Contact your local rep.
3. Write your MLA, Gordon Campbell and Lynn Stephens. Let them know how important CCRR programs are in your area.
4. Work with other social service agencies in your area to create a collective voice opposed to all cuts to social services.