

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

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada Family
Child Care Association
of BC

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CHILD CARE B.C. IS THE LAW!

April, 2001

Dear friends and colleagues,

A few weeks ago, we sent you a Provincial Election Child Care Package, with information and materials that you can use in your community to advocate for child care in the upcoming provincial election. **We trust that you are already using these materials and planning your local activities, as we wait for the election to be called.**

Since we developed the package, there has been another important and historic development. On March 29, the government of B.C. proclaimed a new law - **the Child Care BC Act - Bill 2, 2001**. This Bill legislates the 4 year plan for Child Care BC, first announced in January, 2001. Under this legislation, all licensed group and family child care services and pre-schools for children from infancy through to 12 years of age will be brought into the publicly funded child care system by 2004. Families will pay no more than \$14 a day for full day care and \$7 a day for before and after school care.

The full text of Bill 2 is available on line www.legis.gov.bc.ca, but the attached info sheet outlines some of the highlights and implications of the legislation. We can expect that the child care debate during the election will now focus on the legislation, so we have included the position of the major political parties on Bill 2 and another important question for you to ask your candidates during the campaign.

A group of a dozen advocates, including members of Parents for Child Care and each of the member organizations of the Child Care Advocacy Forum, were in the Legislature for the First Reading of the Bill. The hard work of child care advocates over the last 20 years was acknowledged by Minister Farnworth when he introduced the legislation and by a number of MLAs who spoke in favour of the legislation. Those who attended this event, saw history in the making. They know that they share the appreciation reflected in the legislature with thousands of advocates across the province. Together, we have made a huge difference!

Please add the attached sheet to your election package and distribute it widely in your community.

You can download the Provincial Election Child Care Package from the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada's website (www.childcareadvocacy.ca) or by contacting us at the numbers above.

Lets make sure that the progress we have achieved continues long after the coming election!