

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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BC

United Way of the
Lower Mainland -
First Years First



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Feb. 28, 2001

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh
Parliament Buildings, Room 156, West Annex
PO Box 9041, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

FAX: (250) 387-0087

Dear Premier Dosanjh,

The Child Care Advocacy Forum applauds your recent announcement to extend Child Care B.C. to include all children in the full range of child care and pre school programs. We are convinced that Child Care B.C. is **THE RIGHT THING TO DO** for children and families and are active supporters of this initiative in the community.

However, as the attached position outlines, we are very concerned about the proposed start date for extending Child Care B.C. beyond the current before and after school-care initiative. As you know from the correspondence you are receiving, our constituency is calling on you **to implement the next phase of Child Care B.C., effective April 1, 2001** and to allocate sufficient funds to cover a full year of funding for infant-toddler group centres and school-aged children in licensed family child care in the next provincial budget.

Our reasons for recommending an April 1 start date are based on our commitment to ensuring that the needs of children and families are met. This recommendations builds on the voices of over 10,000 British Columbians who told your government that child care must be a top priority for immediate action.

We had hoped that you would use your recent televised address to respond to our call for an April 1 start date. We are now looking forward to seeing this commitment reflected in the upcoming Budget. While we are pleased that you highlighted the new before and after school care program as an achievement of your government during your address, we regret that did not take this opportunity to let British Columbians know about your four year plan for building a comprehensive child care system.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these important issue with you and look forward to your speedy response. You can contact us at the numbers above.

Sincerely,

Rita Chudnovsky - Facilitator

cc. The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Social Development and Economic Security