

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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May IS Child Care Month May 2007

Since 1982, the child care community has marked May as *Child Care Month*. Over these 25 years, *Child Care Month* has been a time to raise the profile of child care in our communities, a time to highlight the important role that quality child care plays in the lives of children, families and communities and a time to pay tribute to the tireless work of BC's child care providers.

Sometimes, when child care funds are cut, when progress is rolled back, it's difficult to feel like celebrating. In many ways – that's the case this year.

Since the last federal election – children, families and child care services in BC have faced one attack after another. First, the new federal government cancelled the Federal-Provincial Bilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care at a loss of over \$455 million in dedicated child care funds to BC.

Then, BC followed suit by becoming the only province in Canada to make child care cuts in the face of lost federal dollars. BC reduced support for programs like the Child Care Operating Fund that help sustain quality child care in this province, at the same time as they scrambled to spend over \$80 million on one-time-only funds that don't and won't build a system. (For more on BC's child care cuts go to www.advocacyforum.bc.ca).

But – as child care providers across the province help children learn every day – we can only be responsible for our own behaviour. And, on that front there is much to celebrate.

That is why the BC Child Care Advocacy Forum joins others this year by reclaiming child care month as a celebration of the strength, the resiliency and the tenacity of our community.

In spite of government's attacks:

- ✓ Communities are speaking up and out for child care like never before
- ✓ Support for our [Common Vision and Agenda for Child Care Services in BC](#) continues to grow
- ✓ New voices, including Mayors, School Boards, Health Officers and others are letting government know that child care is a solution.

As federal and provincial politicians get ready to head home for the summer ***Child Care Month 2007 is the time to say loudly and proudly that we are strong, we are together and we are not going away!***

This is what the BC Child Care Advocacy Forum is celebrating with you this year. We share your anger, we applaud your courage and we promise to keep at it until the day when together we can celebrate the child care system that BC children, families and communities need and deserve.