

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Chairperson Report 2017

What a year it has been. We stand on the shoulders of women who long ago fought for women's rights and women's equality. We stand on the shoulders of women like Nellie McClung and the sisters of the suffragette movement. We stand on the shoulders of the women who in 1970 presented the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. And we stand with the thousands of supporters of the Community Plan for a Public System of integrated early care and learning.

We applaud the politicians municipal and provincial who support the Plan. We applaud the school boards who had the foresight to see how implementation will help families in their communities.

We applaud the NDP and Green parties for taking a bold stand in the past provincial election and declare child care a top priority for their parties.

The work of the Coalition would not be possible without each member of the Board contributing in thought and action. So I'd like to acknowledge some of the contributions of the women I am so proud to call my sisters.

I'd like to thank Gyda Chud for being our secretary extraordinaire. No one, and I mean no one can take minutes like Gyda. For over two decades, Gyda has organized and hosted our Student Advocacy Forum. Through our one day advocacy workshops, we've reached over 2 thousand students instilling a sense of pride in activism work.

I'd like to thank Caroline Kent for her work in creating meaningful connections with the BCGEU. Caroline is always looking for opportunities to share our message with her union.

I'd like to thank Maria Cagnelli who remains our steadfast representative at the national table with CCAAC. Not only in this area do we rely on her leadership, but also her wisdom of the day to day goings on in our sector and her analysis of on the ground changes.

I'd like to thank Rita Chudnovsky for her brilliant writing skills and her ability to take our ideas and put them into thoughtful policy. Her liaison work with the Poverty Reduction Coalition and our resulting Week of Action (March 1-8, 2017) encouraged advocates from around the province to highlight the \$10a Day Campaign and the importance of affordable child care to families.

I'd like to thank Sheila Davidson for her conscientious leadership as head of our human resources department. Sheila has the foresight to know what we all are thinking and bringing forth policy to reflect the kind of employers we truly want to be. In the spirit of our collective resilience, Sheila helps us navigate through ideal and practicality helping us to remember to take care of each other.

I'd like to thank Ruth Bancroft who reminds us that in every revolution there is a place for acting with grace and that empowerment and being powerful as women is most successful with kindness and consideration. I think Ruth attended more stroller brigades and rallies than most of us and continues to remind us and ground us in the importance of the children we fight for.

I'd like to thank Mab Oloman for her leadership in our fight against big box child care. Her on line sleuthing skills would rival the greatest detectives and her research helps us make our case against the egregious policies of a provincial government more concerned about business than families and children. I'd also like to recognize her many years of work with First Call and the ECD Roundtable.

I'd like to thank Ryan and Nadene for all your work on our campaign and for your dedication to us. You went beyond the parameters of your contracts and have become an integral part of our Coalition family. I especially want to recognize your creativity and ideas amazing some of us old timers with your innovative and technological savvy.

I'd like to thank Melanie Anderson for her work on our CUPW project and personally for helping me enter the world of blogging....And, many thanks for her successful work as our representative in Geneva for the CEDAW review.

And finally I'd like to thank two extraordinary women who bring their commitment and power every day to our cause. And while our success is certainly a group effort, we all understand that without their leadership and tenacity, we would not be where we are today.

I'd like to thank Lynell Anderson for her supreme ability to guide us through the economic complexities of our work. Of special note, her behind the scenes contributions to the "Socio-Economic Impact Analysis of the \$10aday child care plan for British Columbia" report as well as her leadership through our successful Phase 1 work with CUPW. Through her guidance and expertise we've established our "Vancity Community Foundation Fund" which will give supporters a new way to financially support our work.

I'd like to thank Sharon Gregson for her outstanding ability and skill as our campaign spokesperson. Making yourself available to the media at all times of the day (and night) is no easy task and yet she did it time after time after time with such intelligence and persuasion. She made 10aday a household word. I could not keep track of the many presentations she did. Sometimes I wondered if there were any parts of the province that hadn't felt her influence. I also want to recognize, that she has made such an impact on other influential people and organizations. And I'm so happy that her skills are celebrated far beyond our sector throughout the provincial and national social justice movement.

There are so many public examples of how successful Lynell and Sharon have been but the behind the scenes preparation, organization and proactive planning are not always recognized. With all of the Board's collective heart, let me say we did and do recognize the incredible work that you both contribute. There is not a minute that we don't collectively marvel at your abilities and there is no doubt that you both have been the driving force behind our "changing the world".

Our campaign would not have been successful without huge support from many community partners

First, a thank you that embraces family-- to Emily and ECEBC for your sisterhood, your contributions and your leadership. What a ride we have taken together. Together we are so much more than we would be alone – women working together can move mountains.

Next I'd like to thank our funders and allies.

In the coming months we will take time to reflect on our work, review our Constitution and by-laws and challenge our current organizational structure to ensure the Coalition is ready and able to move forward with confidence and inclusion.

Together with many of our community partners we will continue to engage in policy analysis and development to further our commitment to women's equality through child care.

We look forward to hosting a big celebration in the fall. Let the party planning begin!