

**Submission to the Select Standing Committee
on Finance and Government Services**

September 2004

We are parent voices from across B.C.

We are writing to you, our elected MLA's, to remind you that:

- Children and families in our communities need and deserve access to affordable, high quality child care, but the reality is that only 12.1 % of B.C.'s children have access to a licensed child care space.
- Research affirms that there are many short and long term benefits for children, communities and the economy when children can access a quality child care system, but the reality is that B.C. is falling farther and farther behind in meeting the child care needs of children and families.
- High quality, affordable child care (for children from birth to twelve years) needs stable and adequate government funding, but the reality is that over the last three years the B.C. government has significantly cut its provincial child care funding.

The Premier and Finance Minister tell us that now B.C. has a surplus and this could mean *"British Columbians have more choices and more opportunities than ever before to realize their vision for our province."*

Our vision includes Child Care – B.C. Can't Work Without It!

We say, it's time to live up to your promises to develop a *"child care system that meets the needs of families"*.

In 2005/06, we urge the B.C. Government to start making child care a top priority.

1. Implement a long term plan to ensure stable provincial funding for licensed child care in B.C.
2. Immediately restore all of the provincial child care funding to 2001/02 levels and ensure significant improvements so that B.C. families can access and afford quality, licensed child care.

B.C.'s children and families deserve the best!

