

Coalition Launches Child Care Community Governance Project

July 2006

For many years the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) has advocated for a **community-based**, publicly funded, comprehensive child care system.

We know that child care needs to be planned for, developed and delivered at the community level – with adequate and stable public funding and supportive policy. It needs to respond to families' diverse needs by integrating a range of existing and new programs and services including full and part-time in centre and family based settings and it needs to be democratically governed by and for the families and the community.

Now – with funding from the VanCity Community Foundation and in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternative, BC Office - the CCCABC is hard at work on a project that will move us from this great vision of a community-based system to concrete policy options for how to get it done.

A Project Reference Group including Maryann Bird (Saltspring Island), Gyda Chud (Vancouver), Mab Oloman (Vancouver), Mary Walters (Nelson) and Vi-anne Zirmhelt (Kamloops) is working with consultants Rita Chudnovsky and Jocelyn Helland on the first stages of the project.

Over the summer, we are exploring community-based governance approaches and models from other places and services. In the fall, we will seek your feedback on models and will work to build consensus about the need to move from the current inequitable patchwork of child care services to accountable community-based planning and governance models that make the delivery of comprehensive child care services possible. By 2007, we plan to have concrete options and proposals to inform our on-going advocacy.

Stay tuned to our web site for project developments. Or, if you are particularly interested in this work and have thoughts to share – send us an email at info@cccabc.bc.ca.