

March 31, 2003 – A Day Of Mourning for Child Care

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is calling on communities across BC to follow the example of the Campbell River Child Care Society by marking March 31, 2003 as a provincial Day of Mourning for Child Care.

The Day of Mourning will draw attention to and engage the public in discussion about:

- the lack of political will in BC to build a system of affordable, quality child care services that are accessible to all families in BC;
- the ways in which provincial policies and funding cuts are wrecking havoc on children, families and child care services.

March 31st is an appropriate day for this action as it marks the final day of the current provincial funding programs. It marks an important date in the provincial government's multi-year plans to cut child care funding by over [\\$50 million](#). The new [Child Care Operating Funding](#) that will replace current funding as of April 1, 2003 will not sustain licensed child care programs, affordable parent fees or decent wages.

While some boards, staff teams or employers might decide to suspend services for part or all of the day, there are many ways to mark the Day of Mourning:

- Show your support by wearing a grey armband.
- Share information about the impact of the cuts with the parents in your child care program through your newsletter, on the bulletin board or as a handout in cubbies.
- Plan a public action in your community that profiles the cuts to child care.
- Write a letter to the newspaper editor or call in to a radio show commentary.
- Talk to parents, neighbours, and community members about child care. Ask them what the loss of group child care programs mean to children, to families, and to the community.
- Send a letter of support to the Campbell River Child Care Society at jmcmann@island.net or krae@island.net with a copy to Lynn Stephens at lynn.stephens.mla@leg.bc.ca