

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Working for a publicly funded, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible and accountable.

3rd Floor, 210 West Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia V5Y 3W2
tel: 604.709.5661 www.cccabc.bc.ca fax: 604.709.5662

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“Outrageous, unacceptable and irresponsible” is our response to the September 12, 2006 letter to parents and child care providers from Linda Reid, BC Minister of State for Child Care!

“Parents, child care managers and workers have been waiting for nine months to see BC’s child care action plan,” says Susan Harney, a child care provider in Langley. “We need to learn how the province will respond to the Conservative government’s cancellation of an agreement that would have transferred \$455 million of child care funding to BC.”

Apparently Minister Reid’s letter is an attempt to reassure parents that the daycare subsidy for low-income families will not be rolled back, despite the loss of federal funding.

However, the Minister’s letter continues with this destabilizing statement, “the Province will endeavour to maintain all other child-care services to the end of the current school year”. What are the other services?

It can only be assumed that the Minister is referring to the Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) ... funding that licensed child care facilities in BC rely on to keep fees down and their doors open.

With no assurance that operating funding will be maintained beyond June 30th 2007, licensed family, group and school age care providers across BC will have no choice but to increase monthly parent fees to make up for expected funding cuts or to close their doors.

“What BC needs is an action plan that spells out how the province will move child care services forward with stable funding that takes us from a user-pay approach to a publicly-funded system that ensures quality, affordable, regulated child care spaces for those families who want and need them,” says Crystal Janes, a North Vancouver parent.

We urgently call on Minister Reid to reassure BC families by:

- Guaranteeing that BC will not cut operating funds to licensed child care;
- Clarifying her government’s short and long term plans for child care;
- Demonstrating to BC parents and child care providers that the provincial government is 100% committed to supporting the needs of working parents by adequately funding affordable, quality, regulated daycare services in BC.

Please Minister Reid, be accountable to BC families and those providing this important community service.