



COALITION OF

child care advocates

OF BC



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

» **ACTION ALERT | OCTOBER 1, 2007**

ONLY IN BC - PUBLIC CHILD CARE FUNDS GOING INTO PRIVATE ASSETS

Today, the BC government overturned long standing public policy by announcing that major child care capital funding will now be available to the private sector.

This makes BC the only province to invest public child care funds in private assets. Even Australia that promotes privately operated child care does not give capital grants to private companies. In fact, we are not aware of any other provincial ministry or program that provides major capital funds for private acquisitions.

This fundamental shift in public policy was part of an announcement of \$12.5 million in capital funding that is expected to create new child care spaces by 2010. BC is using federal child care transfer funds to pay for this initiative. And, while the funds are relatively small, **the precedent set today is huge and should alarm all British Columbians.**

Child care in BC is currently delivered by non-profit agencies, independent owner operators and self employed family child care providers who are all eligible for operating funds to help offset the cost of care. But, today, Minister Reid, BC's Minister of State for Child Care and her government opened the door to big box child care chains in BC.

A growing international trend, large child care chains already have their eye on Canada. These companies are primed to come into our communities, buy out existing operators, pay low wages and charge high fees. Make no mistake – their primary goal is to use every form of public subsidy available to them to generate profits for their shareholders and acquire valuable real estate in the process.

If today's announcement stands, the goal of building a community based child care system that meets the needs of BC children, families and communities will be even harder to achieve.

We will know more when the Ministry of Children and Family Development posts eligibility and application details on Oct. 5 so watch for more information then.

In the mean time, we urge you to

- Let your MLA know that public funds should not be used for private assets
- Let your networks know that child care as we know it and that families want and need it is on the line
- Let us know at info@cccabc.bc.ca what you can do to help.