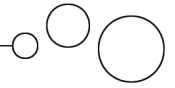


COALITION OF

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.

September 11th, 2010

Lesley Du Toit
Deputy Minister
Ministry for Children and Family Development
PO BOX 9721 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9S2

Dear Deputy Minister,

It has come to our attention that many parents across British Columbia are experiencing challenges applying for the Child Care Subsidy. For a variety of reasons, poverty, language, culture, illness, etc. many parents struggle to fulfill the application requirements of the subsidy process.

Therefore, we suggest it is vitally important that the Ministry of Children and Family Development provide every available resource to support families throughout the application and renewal process. This includes providing service in multiple languages; ensuring documents are in plain language without acronyms; providing support through province-wide Child Care Resource and Referral services and by MCFD offices, regardless of their mandate, being supportive of the application process for families.

For example, access to fax machines, through which applicants for subsidy can provide their necessary documents to the Child Care Branch, is an important and easy way in which all Ministry of Children and Family Development offices across BC can assist parents.

Whether the MCFD office is child care related or not – access to the fax machine service – to send documents from one MCFD office location to another would appear to be a reasonable request.

We can only hope that within MCFD the practice of allowing parents to fax documents free of charge to the Child Care Branch is standard practice.

Sincerely,

Susan Harney
Chairperson

cc. Doug Bull, Child Care Programs and Services Branch