

DID YOU KNOW?

BC Parent Voices | Fast Facts #2

**Know and share the facts. THINK about the facts.
Vote for child care on May 17, 2005.**

Since coming to power in 2001, the BC government has moved us backwards over the last four years.

- Over \$100 million has been cut from child care spending in BC in the last four years.
- In August 2001, the Child Care BC Act, which included a four year plan that would reduce parent fees and increase public funding for child care, was cancelled. This meant that in June 2002, the Funding Assistance Program (FAP) for school aged child care brought in by the NDP government ended. FAP had capped fees at \$7 for before and after school care on a typical school day and \$14 for a full day (e.g. professional development day, school holiday) and was intended to expand to include other age groups in the original four year plan.
- Children of low and moderate income families have been hurt the most by the policy changes and funding cuts.
- Cuts were made to child care subsidy and, when income thresholds were reduced, the families that need it most were affected the most. The government's decision to spend \$23 million less on child care subsidy meant fewer families were able to access licensed child care programs in their community — including pre-school programs, and full day programs for infants, toddlers, pre-school aged and school aged children.
- While BC received \$250 million from the federal government for early childhood, including child care, they are spending \$40 million less of our provincial funds on child care in 2004/05.
- The federal funds are being used to replace some, but not all, of the provincial child care funding cuts, instead of adding it to the provincial spending and expanding the benefits like in some other provinces.
- Many of the recent pre-election announcements to increase spending are one time only grants.



BC Parent Voices is supported by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
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