

Submitted by:
SD23 (Central Okanagan),
SD48 (Howe Sound), and
SD54 (Bulkley Valley)

27. FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Be it resolved:

That the BCSTA urge the Provincial and Federal Governments to:

- a. reinstate funding for child care programs and services to levels prior to 2005;*
- b. guarantee the provision of equity of access to affordable, quality child care;*
- c. ensure affordable access to quality training and development for Early Childhood Education (ECE) care providers,*
- d. promote the recruitment and retention of quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) care providers, and*
- e. advocate for the establishment of a “living wage” for ECE care providers.*

Rationale:

The cancellation of the agreement on early learning and child care was decreased by 455 million dollars federally, and replaced with the Universal Child Care Benefit of a \$100 a month taxable income daycare supplement. Provincially, services and programs will be reduced over the coming months, with the eventual closures of the Child Care Resources and Referral Program (CCRR).

There is a critical need for affordable, accessible child care.

We know through research that Early Learning is critical for children's development, and that one in four children are entering school developmentally unready.

The provincial government has already shown it is committed to Early Learning by focusing on literacy, with programs such as Read Now BC and Ready, Set, Learn.

It is time for both the federal and provincial governments to develop a national strategy for efficient, effective, affordable child care and to make a commitment to build the quality child care system that children, families and communities need and deserve. Governments must develop strategies to train, develop and support those who wish to pursue a career in early childhood learning.

STATUS: Carried as amended