



ELECTION

## CHILD CARE IS AN ISSUE PROVINCIAL ELECTION: MAY 12, 2009

### Let's Not Forget!

During elections, candidates present their record and platform in the 'best possible light'. Expect candidates for the current government to say they have done a great job.

So, in this provincial election, let's not forget that since 2001, child care in BC has been on a 'roller coaster' ride. Let's not forget that the government's child care record includes:

1. Eliminating the \$7 a day school-aged child care program that provided 15,000 affordable, quality spaces for before and after school care.
2. Canceling the 4 year roll out plan for Child Care BC which would have extended affordable, regulated child care to children under the age of 5.
3. Cutting the provincial child care budget and only replacing it with federal dollars. BC's own contribution to the 2009/10 child care budget is less than it was in 2001.
4. Reducing access to child care subsidies for low income families for a number of years.
5. Cutting operating funds tied to improving child care wages and replacing them with smaller, unaccountable, operating funds.
6. Reducing the budget for Child Care Resource and Referral Programs and keeping these important programs in a state of uncertainty for years.
7. Using federal transfer payments that could have built a child care system on one-time-only expenditures and initiatives that aren't child care – like booster seats.
8. Staying silent as a new federal government cancelled its agreement with BC to transfer over \$400 million dollars in child care, and then passing this cut on to families and providers.
9. Falsely dividing policy and funding for early learning (in the Ministry of Education) from policy and funding for Child Care (in the Ministry for Children and Family Development).
10. Holding out the promise of All Day Kindergarten but backing away because of the cost.

Families, child care providers and communities know the results and understand the crisis:

- Child care fees are up, putting quality care out of reach for most families.
- Wages are so low that many early childhood educators are leaving – creating a staffing crisis.
- Wait lists are years long; some programs have closed and others are threatened.

**Because of this crisis, this year the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is not able to celebrate child care month. In honour of the dedication of BC's child care workers, we look forward to celebrating child care month with you when BC has a child care system that works for children, families, caregivers and communities.**

**COALITION OF CHILD CARE ADVOCATES OF BC**

[www.cccabc.bc.ca](http://www.cccabc.bc.ca)

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

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*Authorized by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, 604-515-5439. Registration # EAS-2009-0024.*