

# What can you do next?!

**May is Child Care Month.** The tradition of marking May as Child Care Month was founded 25 years by BC advocates, and is now celebrated in communities across the province.

This May, the **Child Care – Let’s Make it Happen!** campaign partners – the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the BC Government and Services Employees Union, are joining with the Code Blue for Child Care Campaign – our national advocacy partners, to tour BC communities.

Most British Columbians understand that child care is good for children, families, communities and our economy. Now, our goal is to convince provincial and federal politicians to reverse funding cuts that are eroding child care, and to commit funding to build a quality public child care system that works for children and families.

Child Care Month is a time to celebrate the role that early childhood educators and quality child care programs play in the lives of children, families and communities. And, its a time to tell government that they need to commit resources to build the child care system BC needs.

Communities are standing together for child care like never before.

Soon the politicians will leave Victoria and Ottawa for their summer break. You can help keep child care going as a public issue through to the fall:

- **Sign the Child Care – Let’s Make it Happen Petition** by May 30 – so it can be presented in the BC Legislature before MLAs adjourn.
- **Visit your MP and MLAs** when they are in their constituency over the summer. Hearing from local constituents is the best way to keep child care on their agenda. Child care will be an issue in every federal riding in BC in the next election.
- **Do a child care needs assessment in your community**, especially if it’s been a while since one was done. Community by community, let’s challenge government claims that their approach is working. Ensure buy-in by asking your municipal council and/or school boards to sponsor the study. (For resources go to...)
- **Make five new child care friends.** Whether at the supermarket, the campground or a family reunion this summer – make a personal commitment to reach out to five new people on child care. Look for people not in the child care world and have fun finding new, creative ways to share information about the importance of supporting child care.

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## Child care – let's make it happen!

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C.

B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union

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