



*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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## **Can BC’s Parents afford to have Kids? \$10/day Child Care Plan Solves Problem of High Parent Fees**

As if we needed more evidence we can now look to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA-National Office) who today released a report, *The Parent Trap*, on parent fees for child care in Canada’s big cities.

The results are striking. Young people starting a family in Canada today are better off in Quebec or Manitoba, where provincial governments have capped parent fees at affordable – or much closer to affordable - levels.

Conversely in BC, where the exorbitant and ever-rising cost of licensed child care has been ignored by our provincial government, parent fees consume 35% of women’s average annual income in Surrey, 27% in Burnaby and 29% in Vancouver.

We know that Canadian parents are working parents. More than three-quarters of mothers with children under the age of six, and even more fathers with children, are part of the Canadian labour force. And in BC, with looming labour shortages in skilled trades, we need more women in the work force.

The crisis of high parent fees in BC helps to explain the overwhelming support for the \$10/day Child Care Plan, which now boasts a list of supporters representing close to 2 million British Columbians - 32 local governments, 27 school districts, parents, grandparents, unions, businesses, academics and hundreds of community organizations from across the entire province. See: <http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/plan/endorse-the-plan/organizational-support/> for information.

70 BC advocates and educators will be attending the ChildCare2020 conference in Winnipeg this week to share the campaign to advance \$10/day child care in BC. With the CCPA, *Parent Trap* report in hand ([www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca)) we expect more pressure on provincial and federal governments to put an affordable cap on parent fees.

City Name	Province	Monthly Infant Fee, Median	Monthly Toddler Fee, Median	Monthly Preschooler Fee, Median	Annual % of Woman’s Income
Vancouver	BC	\$1,215	\$1,215	\$870	29%
Burnaby	BC	\$1,020	\$1,020	\$755	27%
Surrey	BC	\$977	\$977	\$868	35%
Montréal	Quebec	\$152	\$152	\$152	6%
Winnipeg	Manitoba	\$651	\$451	\$451	15%

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