

Newsletter

Ontario Coalition
for Better Daycare



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May, 1986



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The Speech from the Throne: Will the Liberal Government Keep the Promise?

The sparse reference to child care in the Liberal government's Speech from the Throne indicates that the Cabinet is, indeed, dithering on daycare. While staff in the Ministries of Community and Social Services and the Women's Directorate openly drop hints of the progressive, comprehensive policy that resulted from the government review, the daycare community sees barely a mention in the government's overview of the coming year. The Premier emphasized "...a framework for long-term achievement, rather than a list of short-term promises" for the Province. Yet, this framework devotes only one line to child care. As the Lieutenant Governor read, "...recognizing the increasing importance of child-care facilities to families, new spaces will be created in child-care programs in order to advance economic equity", daycare advocates saw no indication that the new Liberal government priorities for daycare are significantly different than those of the previous Tory government.

The historic Liberal-NDP accord is now almost one year old. The accord committed the government to recognize child care as a basic public service and not a form of welfare. There are strong indications that staff have done their homework and advised the politicians as to how the availability, accessibility and affordability of daycare services could be broadened within the current funding arrangements. There are few indications about the fate of these proposed recommendations. From the community perspective, the process of Cabinet approval is complicated. We know that the internal child care review is on the agenda of the Cabinet and therefore must go through a series of committees. The extension of the deadline for moving to charging full cost of care in municipal centres to January 1, 1987 is also an indication that community pressure has had some effect. However, sage Queen's Park observers remind us that political memories are short. VISIT YOUR LOCAL CABINET MINISTER
WE WANT A

COMPREHENSIVE DAYCARE POLICY, NO MORE PIECEMEAL SOLUTIONS! We expect to see concrete indication that the government is moving toward making daycare more of a public service. Specifically, we need direct funding to help alleviate the costs of daycare for middle-income families while achieving or maintaining reasonable salaries for early childhood educators. At the same time, we need additional subsidized spaces to meet the needs of low-income families particularly in the large urban areas where hundreds of families still sit on waiting lists for daycare. As well, we need major capital funding to create more non-profit daycare programs.

There are two upcoming events which may indicate whether the Liberals are still lingering. On May 13, Mr. Nixon announces the budget. While there are no signals of new directions, Treasury staff have made it clear that considerable internal discussion has been generated in the past six months. On June 2, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association will devote one full day to daycare at its annual conference in Niagara Falls. The grapevine has advised that Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Scott requested that this block of time be directed toward daycare. We will be curious to find out whether new directions in daycare will be announced at this time.



Growing Pains

The following letter was sent to us by Kate Boyle of Paradise Corner Children's Centre in Hamilton. It's a lucid account of her journey from Mini Skool to Paradise Corner.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views about day care during your recent visit to Paradise Corner Children's Centre. I believe I presented my political opinions pretty concisely - that fees are too high and wages are too low. Your question concerning, or rather comparing "Mini Skool" to Paradise Corner elicited an on-the-spot response which, while accurate, was rather limited.

It has been over three years since our school opened and many times since then I have tried to package my thoughts and feelings about the strike. The best that I could come up with was a dry chronology of the events leading to our opening which I included as part of my report to the Liberal Task Force on Child Care recently reported on by Dr. Katie Cooke. My answer to you was that our wages are better now than at Mini Skool. When I was hired by Mini Skool in September 1977, I was making \$2.95 an hour, just short of what I had been earning at my summer job the previous summer. When I left Mini Skool in October 1982, I was earning \$4.44. After moving from an assistant's position during my first year (with my B.Ed. degree I was assistant to another teacher's college graduate who had a year of experience) to a room supervisor and after 5 years, the pay was still awfully poor. I am now earning just over \$7.00 an hour since October 1985.

Yes, the pay is better. But it's more than that. At Mini Skool we were just vehicles by which the corporate heads could get rich. At Paradise Corner, there is no "profit". The parents pay fees to cover staff wages, supplies, food, building expenses and rent. This is the basic difference. We're still not making great money but we know that when the fees go up we get a raise and that, even more important, in order to get a raise, we have to raise fees. This produces much

less resentment and frustration. And we were resentful and frustrated at being cogs in some nameless, faceless wheel. We didn't have control. And this is where it starts to get complicated. Now we do have control and the decision-making, oil bills, rent cheques and the responsibility and fear that this brings. If I were a better writer I'd love to write a book about us and call it "Growing Pains" and it wouldn't be about the little darlings we care for each day.

All this began with a hush-nush meeting at a staff member's apartment where we were recruited by OPSEU. No one dreamed of where this would eventually take us. After certification came our first contract. When time came to renegotiate, a settlement could not be reached and we went out on strike - for 4 1/2 months, during which time we cared for the children in our homes. We scouted around for a new location and opened in February, 1983.



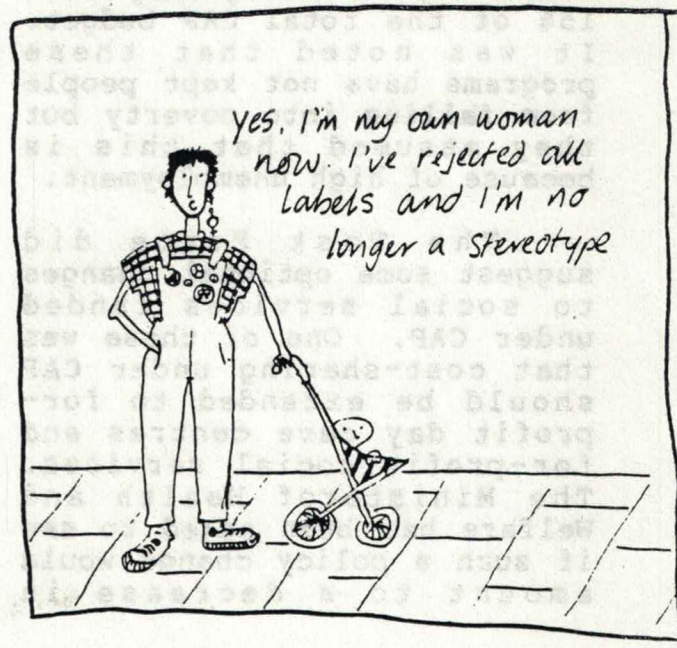
Growing Pains

We were personally tested beyond our expectations of ourselves. First, the decision to join a labour union - we were a bunch of wide-eyed college grads and housewives - extremely naive about labour unions, women's rights or our own potential. Then, the decision to strike - none of us had the least idea of what it was all about. We were a group more concerned about diaper changing than political change, play ground quarrels than labour disputes and "lining up" than "picket lines". It was an overwhelming vote - over 80% in favour. Further - caring for the kids in our homes, in the winter, isolated from each other, with little in the way of equipment; I wonder how many of us would have done it if we'd known what we know now - long days (some from 7:00 a.m. 'til 6:00 p.m.), no breaks, and no clear end in sight. And then the preparations at the new school. As I was at the time the mom of a very tiny baby (a preemie actually), I was only peripherally involved. But I know - even after putting in the long days with the children there was exhausting painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, ect., to be done by the staff and anyone else we could recruit. My husband, incidentally, designed the logo and had our letterhead printed. Looking back from a position of reasonable security, I'm amazed that not only do we have a terrific school but that we survived!

Onto the present. The control we have gained has been a double-edged sword. It is psychologically important to employees to feel that they count, that they make a difference. We have that now as we didn't at Mini-Skool. But there is another side. The resolve, determination, strength which were so necessary to get through all the aforementioned stages has been hard to lose. It's like a beast unleashed. Before the strike all our energy was adversarial "us and them", but not consequential, sort of like punching a pillow. During the strike our sense of "us and them" continued and deepened and we had to be in "fighting spirit" to go on with our tiny campaign. But that fighting spirit has led to some mighty big battles in the running of our school. I don't know if a single person there

would agree with my observations. I don't have a good grasp of how this experience has changed me, I only know that it has. I have mixed feelings about this as well. On one hand, I don't ever want to be the mouse I was before all this, yet on the other, I don't like the hard-nosed person I've become either. I guess the pendulum-swing was pretty extreme and the ideal is somewhere in the middle. I don't think we've reached it yet. Frankly, being so busy caring for kids, looking after my own family (now two children) and learning how to run a school (I'm a former board member) leaves little time for personal reflection.

Is it better now? Yes, it's better, but it ain't easier. I never look back. It was something we had to do. I'm proud of the guts we showed, I'm proud of the care I gave the kids at Mini-Skool, during the strike and the ones I presently look after. But I do miss the nice new building we had (built in 1977 when I was hired), I miss the nameless faceless adversary we had, easy to blame for all our troubles and I miss the simplicity (innocence) we lost. Happy? Well no regrets anyway.



Changes to CAP Anticipated

Last month, the Report of the Neilson Task Force on CAP reported after a year of intensive study.

Although the Report expressed "concern" about the continuing open-ended nature of CAP, it made no immediate recommendations to change the present cost-sharing arrangements. In fact, the Task Force found that the current CAP arrangements were the best way to take care of Canadian needs for social assistance.

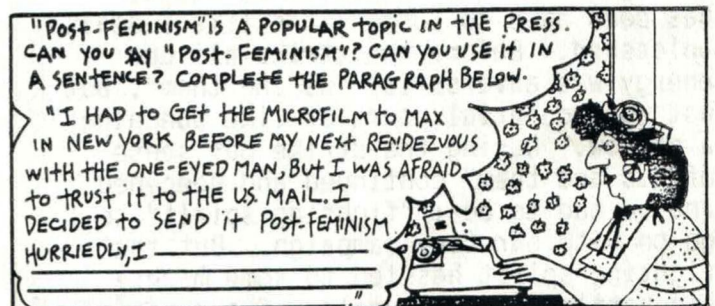
Payments under CAP only bring incomes up to half of the current poverty level. It only costs 4% of federal expenditures and it only meets the needs of one-tenth of the population. The major criticism of the Task Force was that there were too many "employables" receiving it.

As far as day care and other social services were concerned, the Task Force found that funding only cost 15% of the total CAP budget. It was noted that these programs have not kept people from falling into poverty but they assumed that this is because of high unemployment.

The Task Force did suggest some optional changes to social services funded under CAP. One of these was that cost-sharing under CAP should be extended to for-profit day care centres and for-profit social services. The Minister of Health and Welfare has been asked to see if such a policy change would amount to a decrease in

irritation for minimal increase in costs. The Minister's findings have not yet been made public.

Please write to Jake Epp, Minister of Health and Welfare, Ottawa, to express your opposition to this move.



CAP Turning Points

LIKELIHOOD OF NEED INCOME LEVELS UNDER THE CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN
CALCULATIONS BY FAMILY SIZE BASED ON GIS AND OAS
APRIL - JUNE 1985

(Subject to quarterly adjustments to GIS and OAS levels)

FAMILY SIZE	TURNING POINT (USER WITH INCOME BELOW)	150% OF TURNING POINT (USER CONTRIBUTES 100% OF INCOME BEYOND THIS POINT)
	(\$)	(\$)
1 Adult	935	1 403
2 Adults	1 870	2 805
1 Adult 1 Child	1 870	2 305
1 Adult 2 Children	2 182	3 273
2 Adults 1 Child	2 182	3 273
2 Adults 2 Children	2 494	3 741
2 Adults 3 Children	2 806	4 209

1. Calculation of Turning Point:

$$\text{Adult Exemption}(2 \times \text{GIS}^*) + \text{OAS} \\ (2 \times \$329) + \$277 = \$935$$

*Maximum GIS for pensioner with full OAS

Note: 1st child in a single-parent family is also eligible for adult exemption.

$$\text{Child Exemption} = 1/3 \text{ adult exemption} = \$312$$

2. This calculation is included to enable provinces to more easily determine the break-even point for specific services.

- If the cost of the service to the province is less than this amount, only the 50% tax-back rate applies.
- If the cost of the service to the province exceeds this amount, the 100% tax-back rate must also be applied.

As will be seen from the table, a family with two adults and two children could be expected to contribute a maximum of \$702 a month towards the cost of its child care, as long as its monthly income is less than \$4 209. Families with net income above this, would not qualify for any subsidy. Two-adult, two-child families with monthly net incomes below \$2 806 would qualify for full subsidy.

This table should have been included in our last Newsletter and appended to the lead article.

Loophole in the Day Nurseries Act

Pam Doyle-Easton

I have been involved with a daycare vs. private school issue that occurred right next door to my home.

In August, 1985, we were informed by our new neighbours that they were going to be operating a private school. As a concerned community member and early childhood education supervisor, I decided to look into the criteria that the Ministry of Education requires to operate a private school. I was shocked to find that aside from having to have 5 children of compulsory school age in attendance, private schools need not meet any other child related regulations. There are no requirements for teaching, training or curriculum guidelines. The other major concern that I had was that once a private school has those 5 children of compulsory school age, they may enrol any number of children under the age of six and the Day Nurseries Branch of Community & Social Services has no jurisdiction over the program. This, of course, has obvious implications for child/teacher ratios, nutrition, teacher training and general quality of programs for pre-school children.

The particular facility next door to my home was unable to enrol 5 children of compulsory school age,

however, the owner continued to operate through the fall of 1985. She did not meet the Ministry of Education criteria, for a private school, nor did she have a Day Nursery licence.

Finally, a letter from community members to the Ministry of Community and Social Services in February, 1986, resulted in the virtual closure of the facility until they can meet health, fire and Day Nursery regulations. At the time of closure the facility had 23 of pre-school age in attendance.

This "loophole" in the Education Act has some far reaching ramifications for those operators who wish to circumvent even the minimum standards as set out in the Day Nursery Act. As members of the E.C.E. field and advocates of quality care for pre-school children, I feel that we need to be concerned about this issue.

After approximately a one month closure period, the operator was granted a conditional licence under the Day Nurseries Branch of ComSoc and is back in operation.

Daycare: Men Need Not Apply

This article, written by Derk Richardson is reprinted from Mother Jones, July, 1985.

When I started graduate school in history in 1971 and was looking for a part-time job, I was welcomed into the campus child-care center with open arms. Those were the good old days of consciousness-raising and sensitivity training when men were being urged to get away from the harsh male stereotypes and show a little affection, a little tenderness. The day-care environment, then virtually devoid of male workers, was the ideal place to exercise one's new-found capabilities. Now, with newspaper stories and television dramas raising quite a different sort of consciousness about abuse in child-care settings, the once open arms are nervously folded and the welcoming smile is cautiously stiffened. Men are getting the message - never fully denied in the '70s but at least more actively challenged - that child care is women's work.

I chose to work in day for a variety of reasons. For one, I needed a real-life counterbalance to the arid intellectualism and the debasing competitiveness of academia, and the people I encountered in child care were almost universally warm, generous, and humane. And in the broad political sense, I was supplying a much needed social service - right down to preparing snacks, wiping noses, and changing diapers.

This was consistent with my budding notions of social and cultural responsibility, including the idea that men could be nurturing and physically affectionate toward children. My direct interactions with children, parents, and co-workers in fact proved more immediately rewarding than the brainy debates in graduate seminars and the abstract strategizing in weekly socialist political meetings.

Even as I continued my graduate work, advancing to Ph.D. candidacy and beginning work on a dissertation, I pursued studies in early childhood education and committed myself to the growing professionalization of the field. Fourteen years after I began caring for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, I find it hard to imagine more fulfilling work. But if I were 21 today, I'd think more than twice about child-care as a full-time occupation.

Given the low status of the work and the near-impossibility of making a decent living, why would any man choose child-care as a career? That has always been a question, and for many people outside the field the answer has often been "Well, he must be a little weird," which usually carried the implication of homosexuality. Now - in the light of proliferating revelations of sexual abuse in day-care homes and centers and in the shadow of hysteria fueled by the media - the implication is much more sinister.

Daycare: Men Need Not Apply

although few would state it so baldly - that any man who would want to work with young children is a potential pedophile.

Child abuse is a tragedy and a crime of immeasurable proportions, but the over emphasis on its occurrence in day-care has cast a pall over the entire profession. Even the most fundamental day-to-day relationships between parent, child, and teacher are tainted with mistrust, and the specter looms larger over men. Vulnerability, which for a time was a romanticized notion suggesting a lack of defenses, now takes on its more literal meaning, that of being "open to attack or damage."

The wave of fear is not only dividing day-care workers from parents, it is also destroying the vital bond between day-care workers - female as well as male - and children.

In the program where I work - a network of seven centers providing the full range of services from infant-toddler to after-school care - at least one or two men were at each site in the late 1970s. Now, out of a career teaching staff of 28, three are male. It used to be that when male day-care workers burned out or could no longer accept the day-care minimal standard of living, they could consider moving upstairs into administrative positions. But there too the picture has changed. I know of one California program in which a hiring committee composed of parents and staff felt compelled to discuss - in the abstract - the propriety of hiring a man as director. The primary issue was what the community at large would think of a man who would want that sort of job and of a program that would hire him.

The March Of Men



Daycare: Men Need Not Apply

But men are hardly the only victims of the icy climate. Children are being deprived of spontaneous nurturing and, having lost a diversity of role models, are learning once again that certain jobs "naturally" belong to women and others to men. Parents are becoming fearful, and mothers, especially, are being made to feel guilty about abandoning their children to "strangers."

As men exist the child-care profession and the workplace becomes "refeminized," conservatives will find it easier to rationalize the substandard pay scales and demeaning working conditions of "glorified baby-sitting." The gains child care has made in the past decade, in terms of both status and availability, will evaporate. If the bills pending in the California legislature are typical, the public policy response to child abuse is targeted at policing strategies rather than providing for more and better child-care. Officials are devising more and better ways to screen providers through fingerprinting and criminal checks. Every day-care employee is automatically suspect.

And although the internal resources for mutual support within the day-care community are far from exhausted, fear is rising and morale is falling. There is a certain irony in the overall picture of males being persecuted and displaced in an occupation

primarily built and defended by women, but the irony withers in the face of the challenge that all child-care workers - and the community as a whole - must confront.

Pay Equity Hearings

"We need strong equal pay laws with both mandatory pay equity programs and provisions for individual complaints." This is the overwhelming message to the government's panel on pay equity. The hearings opened in Toronto, February 10 with a submission by the OFL.

The OFL tabled its model pay equity law to the panel, setting it as the standard against which the government's Green Paper must be judged. The OFL also announced Janis Sarra would be the 4th and alternate panelist to all the hearings. Since the government chose not to have labour or women's groups represented, Sarra is monitoring the panel and making recommendations to government on behalf of working women and trade unions.

On March 27, the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care presented its brief to the Pay Equity Panel, focussing on the benefits of pay equity legislation to some day care staff. Copies of the Brief are available from the Coalition office.

Umbrella's New Insurance Package

In light of this year's insurance crisis, June Hall, Executive Director of Umbrella Central Day Care Services of Toronto reports on their recent successes.

Up until October 1, 1985 Umbrella was getting its insurance through an American firm which we had been associated with for a claim free five years. Due to a number of liability claims in the States, this insurance firm would not renew Umbrella's policy. Umbrella then found a British Company that would handle Canadian Day Care Insurance Policies. They are able to do so because of the similarities between the British and Canadian day care systems. They do not consider the day care field to be high risk.

Umbrella member centres are paying just a few dollars more for their new policy rather than the hundreds of dollars more that they would have been paying if they were not a member of Umbrella.

For more information, please contact June Hall, Executive Director, Umbrella Central Day Care Services, 361 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, Ont. 416-4461-0958.

CDCAA Elections

The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association was founded following the 1982 National Day Care Conference. It is run by a steering committee made up of representatives from each of the provinces and territories.

Every year, each of these provinces and territories organizes an election of the steering committee representative. In April the CDCAA sent out ballots to its members, along with a one page description of each nominee and the names of the three nominators. Two steering committee members and one official alternate were elected in each of the areas. In the NWT, a member and an alternate were elected in the east and west.

In Ontario, Larry Katz and Julie Mathien were elected from Ontario and was elected as an alternate. The newly elected steering committee will assume office at the time of the annual steering committee meeting in June.

— St. Catherine's —

OCBDC organizing in St. Catharines area has spurred many community organizations to sponsor a Public Forum on Child Care on May 22. As a means of developing a community response to the Special Committee on Child Care, the Social Planning and Research Council of St. Catharines and Thorold has involved a wide range of groups to sponsor this panel discussion and question period. The proceedings will be videotaped and then forwarded to the Special Committee for consideration. Representatives from Niagara Children's Services Committee, OCBDC, Port Cares, Early Childhood Education Department of Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology, Ministry of Community and Social Services, and Niagara Social Services will ensure that resource people are available to clarify issues. The broad Niagara Region is the home of both Shirley Martin and Rob Nicholson, Members of Parliament who sit on the Special Committee. Unfortunately, because the Committee will be holding hearings in Kingston on that day, it is not likely that either will be able to attend. James Bradley, Minister of the Environment and M.P.P. for St. Catharines has been invited to present the Provincial perspective. Margaret Jordan of Brock University will highlight the issues involved in quality care for children.

In this area of the Province, it is likely that groups and individuals will be concerned about the cost of daycare in the municipal centres. In the Region of Niagara, the counsellors have held the line on increasing fees to full cost. As of early this year, daily fees in municipal centres were \$11.00; it is estimated that the full cost is \$18 - \$23 per day, depending on the way that it is calculated. Currently, approximately 20% of the spaces in subsidized centres are used by full-fee parents.

In many of the smaller towns in the region, there is virtually no service.

Supervised care for infants and school-aged children is scarce as well. In St. Catharines, where General Motors employs approximately 10,000 people on three shifts, there is very little care for shift workers. While there is supervised private home day care, most employees of GM, who are in Local 199 of United Auto Workers, do not qualify for subsidy. The Women's Committee of Local 199 looks forward to raising these issues and becoming more involved in the day care community.

The forum will be held at Russell Avenue Community Centre at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 22. Child care is available if reserved by May 20. For more information, telephone 1-662-5504

— Ottawa-Carleton —

The Regional Municipality of Ottawa/Carleton is preparing a planning document which will be discussed at the Social and Health Policy Committee in mid-May. This will enable Council to decide how they want to allocate the new expansion spaces. The day care community has asked for a public consultation process to take place afterwards. As well, we have requested the formation of a Planning Committee with broad representation.

A couple of activities are being planned for the arrival of the Committee on Child Care. One is a rally and the other is a meeting of day care activists and representatives from all three levels of government.

The Windsor Coalition collected over \$200 in our drive for the Globe & Mail Ad Campaign. As a result of our ad, our local Coalition was contacted by CBC radio and we received a few minutes air time! It was a good opportunity to get recognition and to inform and educate the public.

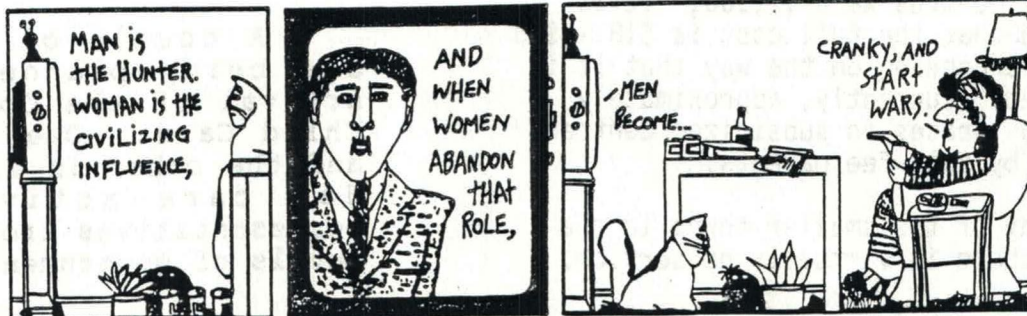
On April 7th, the Windsor Coalition and CUPE Local 534.4 (ABC Daycare employees) made a joint presentation to the NDP Health and Safety Task Force. We received, for the panel, the health and safety hazards that exist for child care workers and we expressed frustration about the fact that health and safety representation in workplaces with less than twenty employees is not guaranteed.

We are now in the process of preparing a questionnaire on health and safety for people in the field of Early Childhood Education.

In our last newsletter, we reported that due to strong action by parents at the Coronation Park Day Care in Sarnia, proposals to close or sell the municipal day care had been defeated by a vote of 8 to 2. In fact, the City decided to expand the centre to accommodate more children.

It seems that there is a downside to every story these days though. This month, the City passed a resolution, effective May 1st, imposing a minimum \$2 per day user fee on the parents, whether they have the extra money or not!

Once again, the parents at the day care centre along with Coalition members are gearing up to challenge this decision, but of course they are being told that something has to be done to increase revenues and the user fee will be necessary if the parents don't want the centre to close.



The City of Thunder Bay Community Services Committee meeting of March 10th was packed with 150 parents and children who were present to witness what turned out to be a sympathetic hearing by city politicians of briefs presented by CUPE, individual parents, the NWO Regional Day Care Committee and the Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care, concerning the withdrawal of the indirect subsidy and its consequent fee hike and cost-cutting measures.

City Council deferred any decision on this matter and struck an advisory committee composed of city administration, the Chairman of the Community Services Committee (who is sympathetic to our cause), five parent representatives and the President of the Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care.

The Committee has not yet held its first meeting but it is hoped that it will be ready to respond to the Provincial review of funding alternatives.

We are continuing to monitor the actions and proposals of the City administration as they are brought to Council in addition to ongoing lobbying of our provincial and federal representatives.

The Town of Hearst hosted a day care conference for Francophone day care centres on April 10th. The Minister of Northern Affairs, and ex-mayor of Hearst had promised to come but other commitments and a blizzard prevented him and others from coming.

Nevertheless, conference participants spent a lively day discussing the importance of their day care centres and the need to persuade the provincial government to change their policy of withdrawing the indirect subsidy.

On the Road with the Childcare Committee

Lynne Westlake, CDCAA

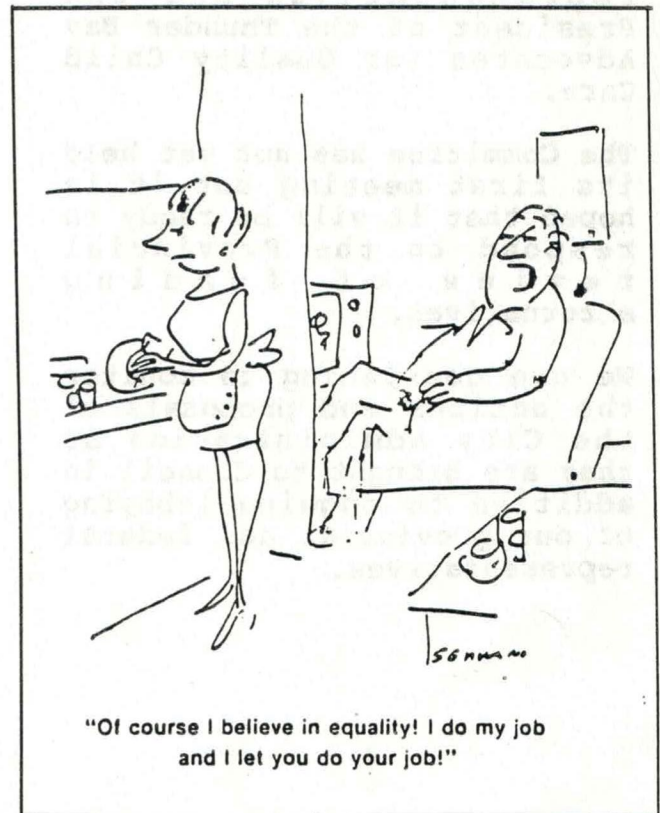
The Special Committee has now completed hearings in P.E.I., Newfoundland, Southern B.C., Nova Scotia, New Brunswick.

Public response to the hearings has been overwhelming! Partly because of the large number of requests for hearings and the short timetable, the first few weeks uncovered a number of problems with the process. People in Charlottetown, St. John's and Corner-Brook were angered by the cancellation of the evening hearings in Charlottetown, the very short notice of hearings, and lack of information about travel resources and child care available to those wishing to appear.

In Vancouver, where the demand for hearings was very strong, groups were asked to make their requests early. Even by March 7 there were over 120 requests from a broad range of groups and individuals. Trouble arose when, only a few days before the hearings were scheduled to begin, it was learned that a number of groups, mostly evangelical, who had made last minute requests, were given time slots, while such groups as the B.C. Daycare Action Coalition, the Preschool Multicultural Services, and the Western Canada Family Daycare Association of B.C. were not scheduled. Last minute negotiating and compromise saved the day, and all of the major groups were heard. We have been assured

that such questionable practices will not occur again, but the CDCAA will be monitoring the process closely to ensure that it is fair.

In most provinces, the response has been massive; however, there are times still available in the hearings planned for the Yukon and North West Territories, and the deadline for requests has been extended for the territories.



Ontario Hearings Schedule for the Special Committee on Childcare

May 5	London	Ramada Inn
May 6	Hamilton	Convention Centre
May 7,8,9	Toronto	St. Lawrence Town Hall
May 12	Dryden	Best Western Motor Inn
May 13	Thunder Bay	Ramada Inn
May 14	Sudbury	Holiday Inn
May 15, 16	Toronto	Convention Centre
May 20	Ottawa	Location TBA
May 22	Kingston	Location TBA

for more information, please call (613) 995-8633

Memo: the Special Committee on Childcare

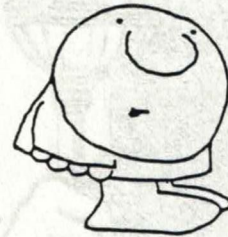
The Committee has moved to larger offices. The new address:

180 Wellington
Wellington Building
Room 626
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6
(613) 995-3789

Ross Belcher, a P.C. member from Fraser Valley East, B.C., has joined the Committee to replace Roger Clinch (P.C., N.B.).

Equality

i'M ALL FOR
WOMENS RIGHTS
... IT'S JUST NOT FAIR
TO JUDGE A PERSON
BY THE SHAPE OF
THEIR SKIN !!



Highlights of the Katie Cooke Task Force

The most stunning event on International Women's Day, 1986 for many of us who have been organizing the fight for free universal day care since 1970, was the front page headline in the Toronto Star, "Give Everyone free day care Ottawa urged". For the first time since the Royal Commission on the Status of Women reporting in that year, a government task force came out and proclaimed the need for free universal day care in Canada.

The Katie Cooke Task Force in question, however, has no status. It was set up by the previous Liberal Government

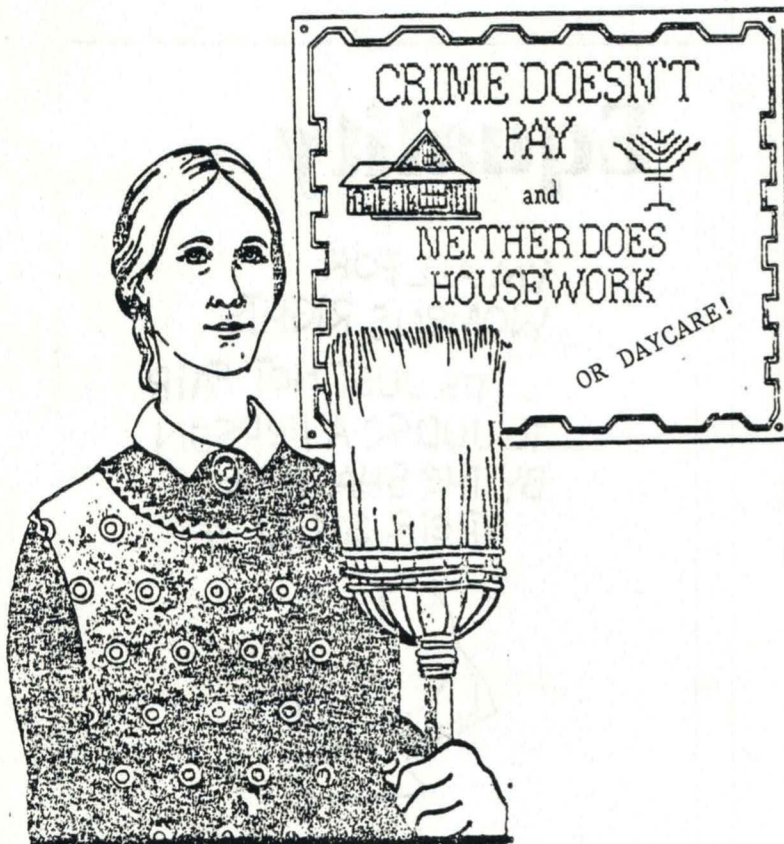
and has been superceded by the Tories own Parliamentary Special Committee which is going to extreme lengths to pull out "real" women to its hearings to reinforce its policy stand against universal day care and in favour of keeping women in the home.

The Katie Cooke Task Force lived a short life in the media and its now up to us to resurrect it at every opportunity. The highlights are:

Child care is the issue of the 1980's. Child care in Canada is in a state of crisis and requirtes federal intervention and leadership for resolution.

Over the past two decades families have undergone a significant transformation. In 1961, over two-thirds of Canadian families consisted of breadwinner-husband and homemaker-wife; in 1981 only 16% of families fit this pattern. There are more lone parent families (11% in 1981 and only 6% in 1961) and most of these are headed by women who are poor. More mothers are now in the paid labour force (59% in 1984 compared to 20% in 1970) which creates greater demands for child care services.

Parental leave which enables both mothers and fathers of very young children to combine work and family responsibilities is a very important part of child care policy. However, current provisions for parental leave in Canada prevent men and women from fully meeting their work and family



Highlights of the Katie Cooke Task Force

responsibilities.

In a study of the parental leave policies of 12 countries, the Task Force found that most countries offer a period of extended parental leave following the initial period of maternity leave. Except for the UK and the USA, all 12 countries provide leave enabling mothers and fathers to care for sick children and several countries provide additional leave benefits to allow parents to care for their children.

Licensed child care provides care for only 9% of children requiring care in Canada. The remaining 91% are cared for in unlicensed situations of unknown quality or they care for themselves. It is estimated that between 40-50% of school aged children care for themselves.

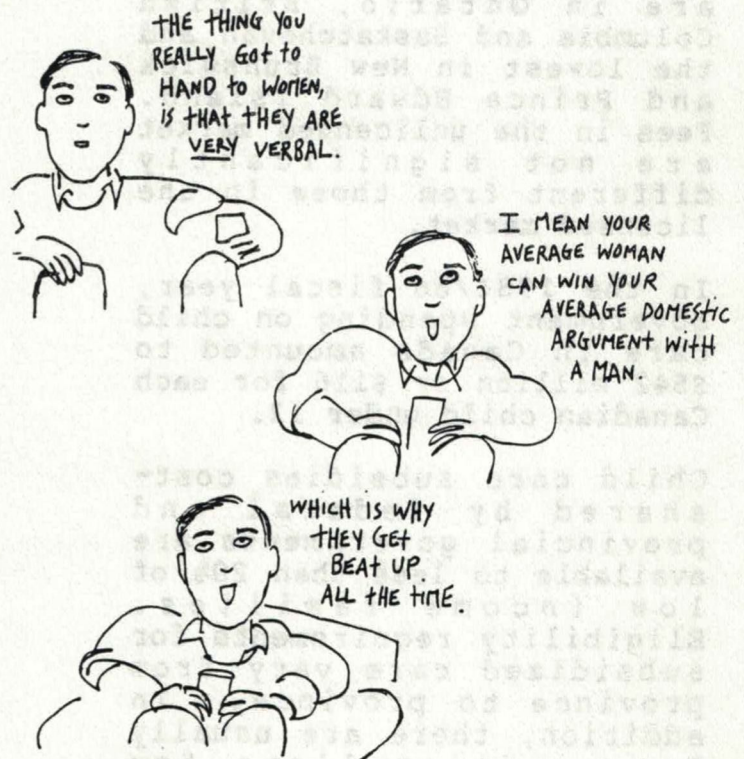
Child care should not be a babysitting or remedial service but should be a service that responds to the development needs of children. As all families need access to some aspect of child care, a universal system of quality care should be available to all families. Canada's lack of a quality, universal child care system creates problems for all families but some groups are particularly poorly served: infants, rural children, handicapped and disabled children, native children, children of seasonal, part-time and shift workers and children of the unemployed.

parents generally prefer licensed care but very few parents are receiving the type of care they prefer for their children.

Providers of child care are generally caring and dedicated people. However, in relation to the service they provide, the recognition and remuneration they receive are disproportionately low.

All provinces and the Yukon have licensing standards and procedures. These standards could form the basis of the development of a system of quality care.

An adequate system of care is costly: 1) to children in terms of damaged lives and unrealized potential, ii) to parents in terms of stress related illnesses, lost



Highlights of the Katie Cooke Task Force

employment opportunities and consequently, poverty in old age; iii) to employers in terms of absenteeism, work interruption, high employee turnover and low productivity, and iv) to society in terms of necessary remedial services in the medical, educational, social service and justice systems.

The financing of child care in Canada places good quality licensed services beyond the means of most parents unless their incomes are so low that they qualify for subsidy (and can find subsidized places) or their incomes are high enough to pay the full cost.

According to a survey done for the Task Force, child care fees for children under age 6 range between \$3000 and \$4000 and for the 6 to 12 year olds between \$2200 and \$2500 annually. The highest fees are in Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan and the lowest in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Fees in the unlicensed market are not significantly different from those in the licensed market.

In the 1984/86 fiscal year, government spending on child care in Canada amounted to \$542 million or \$116 for each Canadian child under 13.

Child care subsidies cost-shared by federal and provincial governments are available to less than 20% of low income families. Eligibility requirements for subsidized care vary from province to province. In addition, there are usually long waiting lists for

subsidized space in many areas, and in some areas there is no subsidized care at all.

The Income Tax Act provides for a Child Care Expense Deduction of \$2000 per child, up to a maximum of \$8000. For a number of reasons, this deduction is being used by fewer than half of the parents eligible to claim it.

In studying the child care policies and practices in 11 other countries, the Task Force found that in every country but the USA, a greater proportion of the cost of child care is borne by government than it is in Canada. One notable feature of most European systems is that state sponsored and financed kindergarten education commences at age two or three.

A competent, comprehensive, accessible system of quality licensed care offered on a non-profit basis is needed to solve the current child care crisis. The system should be multi-faceted, offering a range of services and catering a variety of needs of children and families. It should be developed following collaboration of both levels of government, child care providers and users of the service.

A system of parental leave is needed to eliminate the present inequities, enrich the current system of paid leave and extend benefits to fathers as well as mothers.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS;

A complementary system of

Highlights of the Katie Cooke Task Force

child care and parental leave which is as comprehensive, accessible and competent as the health care and education systems should be developed.

The goal of the child care system should be to provide services that are accessible to all children needing them, without regard to parental income or work status.

The federal government should take the lead role by implementing short - and medium - term fiscal measures which would stabilize the current licensed care system, increase the availability of spaces and improve the affordability of licensed child care.

In the long term, the Task Force perceives a system of licenced child care which is fully funded out of public revenues. This should be done following a study of the impact of short and medium term measures.

Related recommendations to the federal government include:

1. Appointment of a minister for children;
2. Expansion of research and academic initiatives;
3. Increased training for child care staff through the "National Training Program"; and
4. Expansion of the role of the National Day Care Information Centre at Health and Welfare.



Cost of Universal Daycare.....

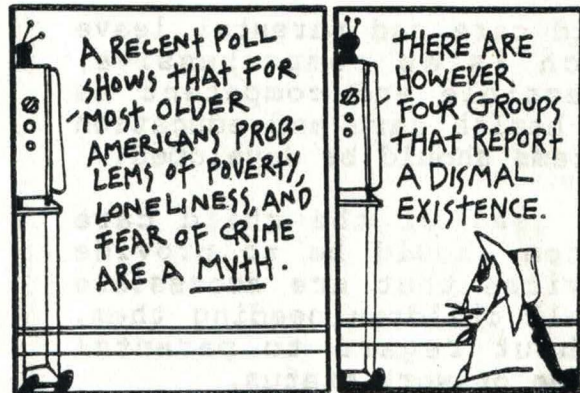
The Katie Cooke Task Force recommendations for immediate relief for the day care system will cost \$11.2 billion

Let's take a look at how the federal government spends our money now.

1984-85
(Billions)

Unemployment Insurance	\$10.0
Old Age Security	\$11.4
Soc.Assist. & Soc.Ser.	\$ 3.6
Family Allowances	\$ 2.4
Defence	\$ 8.9
Public Debt Charges	\$22.4
Personal Income Tax	\$29.3
Corporate Income Tax	\$ 9.4
Sales Tax	\$ 7.7
Total federal tax revenue	\$65.7

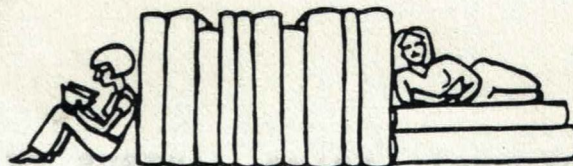
Established Programs
Financing Health and Post
Secondary Education \$13.8
(cash expenditures plus tax
transfer)



Upcoming Conferences

May 9, 10	Crimes Against Children	Toronto
May 30- June 2	National Action Committee on the Status Of Women	Ottawa
June 1-4	Ontario Municipal Social Services Association	Niagara Falls
June 4 - 7	AECEO	Toronto
June 19-23	Focus on Working Mothers	Toronto
October 24-26	Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare - for more information (416) 766-4691	Toronto

Research from the Katie Cooke Task Force



BARBARA SAWYER

The following is a descriptive list of the research projects which are being undertaken to assist the members of the Task Force on Child Care in fulfilling their mandate.

NEED AND AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE SERVICES/PARENTAL LEAVE

The 'Formal' Child Care Market

A summary of the 1984 Health and Welfare publication 'Status of Day Care in Canada'.

NEED AND PARENTAL PREFERENCES

A survey of child care users (parents) from various regions of the country, representing a cross-section of socio-economic and demographic groups, designed to identify parental preferences for child care and the needs which parents perceive for their children.

OVERVIEW OF THE 'GREY MARKET'

A literature review of issues related to unlicensed, unregulated child care in Canada.

THE MARKET PRICE FOR CHILD CARE

A survey of child care providers designed to elicit information on what parents pay for different types of child care in Canada.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF PARENTS

A review of the case law and statutes to determine the legal obligations of parents in each province regarding provision of care for pre-school and school-aged children.

WORKPLACE CHILD CARE

An inventory of existing workplace child care programs with an analysis of key issues related to this type of child care.

WORKING HOURS AND INCOMES OF PARENTS

A review and assessment of available data on working hours and incomes of parents.

CHILD CARE NEEDS OF PARENTS AT HOME FULL-TIME

The needs of children who are at home with their mothers and the need of housewife-mothers for child care services will be identified, along with options for meeting these needs.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Information on the structure of child care and parental leave systems in selected foreign countries will be gathered directly from missions abroad.

PARENTAL LEAVE; NEEDS OF PARENTS

A review of the literature concerning the health and social welfare concerns regarding two-earner and single parent families, together with recommendations regarding parental leave models which would respond to these needs.

STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS

DESCRIPTION OF PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL STANDARDS

A description of existing standards for child care in each province and territory will be prepared.

'BENCHMARK' STANDARDS

A review of the current literature to identify approaches to standards of quality which may be used to guide decision-making in this regard.

ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS

A description of the approach used in each province to ensure adherence to their standards. Comparisons will be drawn to enforcement of other types of standards, such as health regulations and self-regulating professions.

THE PROFIT - NON-PROFIT DEBATE

A review of the literature to identify those arguments traditionally used in favour of and opposed to profit-making enterprises delivering

social services.

EMPLOYEES IN THE 'FORMAL' CHILD CARE MARKET

A description of the wages and working conditions of child care providers in the delivery of licensed child care.

ESTIMATES OF COST

A review of the literature and development of models to project the cost of providing child care of different types and quality.

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FOR CHILD CARE

A revision and update of the paper prepared for the May 1984 meeting of federal-provincial Status of Women Ministers.

CHILD CARE EXPENSE DEDUCTION

A description of the operation of the child care expense deduction since the 1983 budget and its interaction with other tax measures will be explored.

CAP - AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW

A review of the provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan to determine how it was intended to operate, how in fact it does operate, and difficulties identified by those who administer and use it.

FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPARABLE SERVICES

A review of the federal-

provincial fiscal arrangements now employed in the social services and proposed options for financing child care.

CONSTITUTIONAL DIVISION OF POWERS

A legal review of the constraints imposed by the Constitution on federal action in child care and parental leave.

OPTIONS FOR REFORM OF THE TAX-TRANSFER SYSTEM

Options for reform of the 'family benefits' provisions of the income tax system will be developed.

ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES

A description of the contribution of municipalities in the provision of child care services in Canada and an exploration into the scope of municipal involvement.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

A literature review of the arguments presented for the development of universal education and health care in Canada, as well as references to the need for child care and maternity leave contained in suffragist platforms.

JOB CREATION POTENTIAL

The job creation potential of government expenditures on child care will be examined and compared to traditional job creation measures.

CHILD CARE AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

EFFECTS OF CHILD CARE ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

An overview of the impact of regulated and unregulated pre-school child care on children and their families.

SPECIAL NEEDS (DISABLED)

The special needs of disabled children and the children of disabled parents will be identified and examined through a literature review.

CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT PARENTS

The special needs of children (or parents) who may not speak the language of the services or who face cultural barriers to participation in group care will be examined.

FEDERAL ROLE RE INDIAN CHILDREN

An inventory will be detailed on on-reserve child care facilities.

FEDERAL ROLE AS EMPLOYER

A review of federal government policies for its employees on parental leave, maternity leave, and workplace child care.

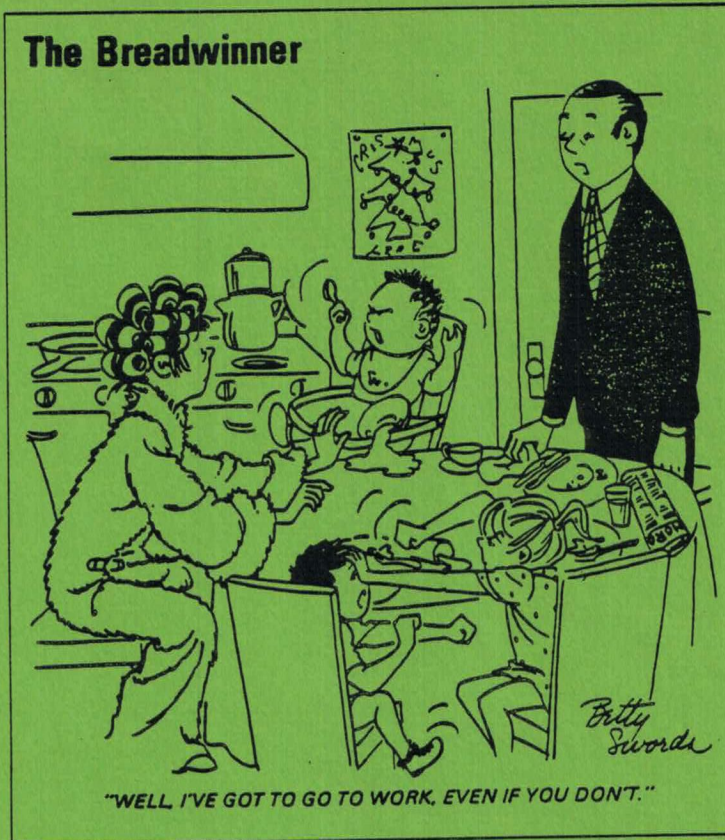
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH

A comprehensive bibliography of Canadian work on child care will be developed.

PARENTAL LEAVE OPTIONS

Options for paid leave for parents to supplement and/or replace child care needs will be identified and costed.

The Breadwinner



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Join the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare !

Throw your weight behind the daycare movement

I/We agree with the principles of the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare and wish to join.

I/We enclose the fee: \$10 (individuals and daycare centres)
(Organizations should contact us at (416) 766-4691 for membership fees)

I/We enclose a donation of \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ Other ___

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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Mail to: Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare, 1260 Bay St., Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2B5