

CHILD CARE CHALLENGE



NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

A STRING OF BROKEN PROMISES!

The Government's broken CHILD CARE promises will be the focus of child care advocates in the 1990 provincial election. Broken Promises include:

- The failure to make child care a basic public service;
- The failure of the government to provide subsidized child care for those eligible;
- The failure of government to made child care affordable for those who do not qualify for a subsidy;
- The failure of government to improve salaries for child care staff and guarantee their access to pay equity; and
- The failure of government to guarantee high quality in child care.



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**COMMENTS
WELCOME**

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care thrives on input. Whether it's information about what is happening in your community, information you would like to share about your program, ideas for a story, letters with your thoughts about the Child Care Challenge, your criticisms of our actions or campaigns, your photos, local news clippings, cartoons - anything - we would welcome it. It's the way we keep in touch with you and hopefully respond to the needs of the child care movement. So pick up your pen today, and write us a note - or phone us - we'd love to hear from you.

THE CHALLENGE

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LAUNCHING THE CHILD CARE NETWORK!

This fall, the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care will be launching the **CHILD CARE NETWORK**. The concept of the Network has been extensively discussed amongst Coalition members for over a year and will basically serve two purposes:

- 1) To provide a strong lobby of non-profit child care programs on all child care issues - ranging from the very detailed, administrative problems to the broader policy questions currently addressed by the Coalition.
- 2) To assist the development of non-profit child care centres with services such as books, manuals, videos, films, computer hardware and software, competitive insurance rates, training materials, and a host of other resources.

Attend the Fall Forum to find out more about how you can get involved in this new and exciting development!

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PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FREEZES CHILD CARE SPENDING!

The Provincial Government has frozen spending on all new child care programs and announced a "Suspension" of its New Directions policy.

This means:

- No major capital for new child care programs
- No program development funds for new programs
- No additional subsidies for existing programs
- No minor capital funds for renovations or equipment
- No money for new resource centres
- No money for conference and other public education projects

The Provincial Government has committed itself to carrying through with commitments in the above areas made in the last fiscal year and will be providing for a 5.5% annual inflation increase. The \$10 million available as a "Pressure Point" Fund to assist municipalities pales in comparison to the severity of the freeze.

In addition, the government has completely ignored the demands of child care workers to be included under Pay Equity legislation. Once again, child care workers have been left out in the cold. The government is **NOT** recommending that the Pay Equity Act be amended. Child care workers who do not have a male with whom to compare their jobs cannot and will not be able to get pay equity adjustments. Neither has the government increased the direct operating grant to enable child care workers to achieve a pay upgrade this way. This is particularly appalling in view of the following facts:

*Average child care worker wage, 1988....\$324 per week (\$16,852)
 Child care staff earn only 57% of the average industrial wage (\$569)*

Visiting homemakers and workers in other community-based agencies have received NEW 1990-91 budget allocations to assist in raising wages.



WILL THE PROVINCIAL GST BE NEXT

(reprinted from off the record, Vol.2 No. 11, June 7, 1990)

Question: Why would David Peterson, with a big majority and not three years into his mandate, want to call a fall election? One answer could be *money* as in *taxes*. Specifically, provincial sales taxes (PST).

On April 3, Opposition Leader Bob Rae asked Ontario's treasurer why Liberal pollster Martin Goldfarb was asking Ontarians how they would feel about an expanded PST, if the tax were reduced from eight to six per cent. The PST would use the same tax base as the federal goods and services tax (GST).

The treasurer replied that Liberals would never do such a dastardly deed and pooh-poohed Mr. Rae's query.

Ha!

Last fall the treasury released a booklet on the state of Ontario's economy. Figures on page 101 estimated that the Ontario treasury will lose \$8 billion in tax revenue because the PST will not have the same tax base as the GST.

This information probably got the treasurer thinking that the GST does have a plus side and changed his mind about working with the feds. And also why the Liberal-dominated finance and economic affairs committee proposed that Ontario merge the administration of the GST with Ontario's PST.

The plot thickens.

Each percentage point of the PST is worth \$1 billion. Thus, lowering the tax by two per cent would cost the treasury \$2 billion. So even if the widening of Ontario's PST only brought in \$5 billion instead of \$8 billion, the provincial government will still pick taxpayers' pockets for at least \$3 billion.

The game plan for such a scheme is pretty obvious. Keep mum until after the fall election. Then claim that collecting two different sets of taxes will be a "costly



administrative nightmare" and propose "harmonization". To make it look like you're the good guys, reduce the PST from eight to six per cent. A con artist's dream - give a little, take a lot.

For Ontario taxpayers, this scheme would mean an instant 13 per cent tax hike (seven per cent GST; six per cent PST) on goods and services ranging from haircuts to legal fees, starting January 1, 1990.

Mr. Rae said the NDP intends to pursue the issue until the premier gives a clear statement on Liberal tax intentions. If they do, Mr. Peterson's answer could raise another issue - trust.

Reminders of Mr. Peterson's unkept 1987 campaign promises have the ingredients to make this election lively.



The Provincial Municipal Social Services Review

A story in the previous issue concluded that the implementation of the recommendations of the 1990 Provincial Municipal Social Services Review (PMSSR) could have disastrous implications for the medium and long-term future of child care in Ontario. To summarize briefly, it was suggested that as municipalities experience budget pressures on social service expenditures, their most likely response would be to withdraw from the financing of discretionary programs - in particular child care, home care and community-based support services.

Table 1 below allows for a comparison of shifting provincial and municipal shares in the actual 1988-89 expenditures with projected expenditures according to the PMSSR proposal. Service delivery for child care that costs \$36.6 million would require municipal contributions of \$75.9 million if the proposal were adopted. Similarly, service delivery for community-based support services that actually resulted in municipal expenditures of \$117.9 million in 1988-89 would require \$230.7 million under PMSSR.

Program Area	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES, FISCAL 1988-89				PMSSR PROJECTED EXPENDITURES, FISCAL 1988-89			
	Municipal Share		Provincial Share		Municipal Share		Provincial Share	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Children's Services	53.1	9.1	530.1	90.9	0.0	0.0	583.2	100.0
Income Support (Proposal 1)	212.3	8.7	2,238.4	91.3	3.7	0.2	2,447.7	99.8
Income Support (Proposal 2)	212.3	8.7	2,238.4	91.3	50.5	2.1	2,400.2	97.9
Facility-Based Care for Persons with Disabilities	0.0	0.0	319.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	319.5	100.0
Child Care	36.6	12.1	267.1	87.9	75.9	25.0	227.8	75.0
Community-Based Support Services	117.9	12.3	848.2	87.7	230.7	24.2	726.4	75.8
Information and Referral, Other Administration and Grants	10.0	7.9	116.4	92.1	10.0	7.9	116.4	92.1
TOTAL (Proposal 1)	429.0	9.0	4,311.7	91.0	328.3	6.8	4,421.4	93.2
TOTAL (Proposal 2)	429.0	9.0	4,311.7	91.0	367.1	7.8	4,373.5	92.3

In 1987, David Peterson promised a plan to have 200,000 child care spaces by 1992. By 1988, the year to which the above financial data applies, just over 100,000 children could count on a licensed centre or private home space. While it is possible that in the 1990 election, he may announce a lottery plan, or some other strategy which would mean no other additional costs to municipalities of implementing the other 100,000 spaces, that seems a little

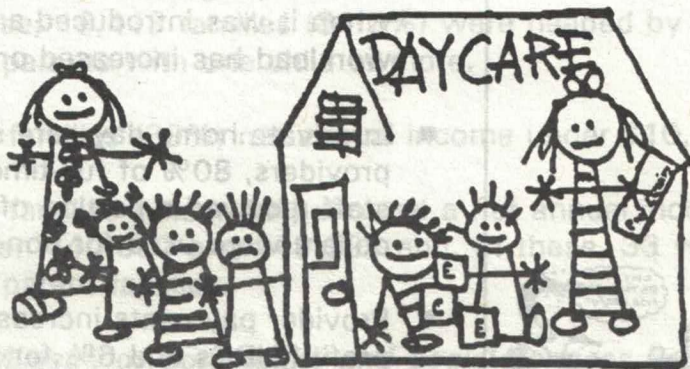
out of character. Assuming that the 100,000 new spaces are no more expensive than the old ones - not necessarily a very safe assumption - municipalities could be faced collectively with coming up with as much as \$150 million more a year than in 1988-89 to meet their child care commitment.

Faced as well with increased pressures of other community-based support services, (the Minister also released a new long-term care strategy within weeks of his PMSSR release), it seems likely that we could find many medium-sized municipalities reviewing their commitment to discretionary services. Given the suspension of New Directions in child care over the threat of cuts to federal cost-sharing, the provincial government may be only too happy to further scale back its commitment to women and families in Ontario.

On the release of the report, Minister Beer invited responses to the committee recommendations by October 4, 1990. It is not too late to write to him with your observations on the impact this proposal could have in your region.

Janet Maher

HOW LONG TO WAIT?



Short Term Evaluation of the Direct Operating Grants (DOG)

This evaluation was commissioned by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and conducted by The Levy-Coughlin Partnership. The report, in fact, confirms what we already know and is disappointing in its absence of comment on some of the serious implementation problems. It finds:

- Overall, 85% of the direct operating grant dollars were used to augment salaries and benefits.
- 72% was allocated to augment full time salaries; 6% for full time benefits; 7% was to augment part-time salaries; 0.3% to assist with part-time benefits. 15% of DOG dollars was used for non-salary purposes;
- Of the non-salary dollars, 24% were used to offset operating expenses; 22% to transitional grant reduction and 21% for "affordability".
- Non-profit programs allocated 14% of their DOG dollars to non-salary uses; municipal programs allocated 19% for non-salary uses; and for-profit programs allocated only .5%.
- Among programs that used the DOG for FULL TIME SALARIES AND BENEFITS, the average increase in full time staff remuneration was \$3,358 within all non-profit settings and \$1,566 in for-profit agencies.
- 63% of programs felt the grant increased their workload when it was introduced and 41% reported that the workload has increased on an on-going basis.
- In private home day care settings, virtually 100% of providers, 80% of full-time staff and 69% of part-time staff received a portion of the grant. 11% of DOG dollars were used for non-salary purposes.
- Provider payments increased by \$721 (14%) for non-profit PHDCs and 6% for for-profit PHDCs.
- Non-profit agencies (including municipalities) increased salaries by an average of \$2,813; for-profit agencies by \$1,420.



PROVINCIAL SUBSIDY FACTS

- 35,539 children were enrolled in subsidized child care in Ontario in December, 1987. 24,622 of these children (69.3%) were from single parent families.
- Preschoolers (2-1/2 - 5 years), at 53.2% were predominant among groups of children in care, followed by schoolaged children (5 to 10 years) at 28.2%, toddlers (18 months to 30 months) at 11.2% and infants (under 18 months) at 6.1%.
- 31,921 children (89.8% of total) received fully subsidized care. Of these, 23,133 children (72.5%) were from single parent families.
- 3,618 children (10.2% of total) were enrolled in partially subsidized care. Of these, 1,489 children (41.2%) 2343 from single parent families.
- 9,670 children or 27.2% of all children in care were from families on social assistance. Of these, 8,993 children (93%) were from single parent families.
- 19,976 families (72.1% of all subsidized families) were headed by single parents.
- 7,748 families (27.9% of all subsidized families) were two parent families.
- The net annual income of 21,847 families or close to 80% of all subsidized families was less than \$20,000. Of these, 18,418 families (84.3%) were headed by single parents with one child or more.
- 8,111 families (30%) net annual income under \$10,000.
- 1,403 families (under 4%) showed a net annual income between \$40,000 and \$49,999 and, of these, 33 were single parent families.



(From a Ministry of Community and Social Services Report: "Subsidized Child Care", 1990)

Fourth Report of the Select Committee on Education

Yet another report on early childhood education from government would normally gather faint praise. This report, developed in the context of government initiatives and new program developments in the area of early childhood education, however, has much to commend it. The premise of the report is the recognition of the critical importance of learning in the early years and an examination of how learning can best be seen as a continuum. The report points out that child care programs in schools have grown from 25 in 1975 to almost 900 in 1990, accounting for 31.9% of all child care programs in the province.

From this perspective, the Committee examines the problems of early education programs and explores possibilities for greater coordination and integration. The Committee makes a total of 28 recommendations aimed at improving early education programs and setting up mechanisms for further discussion, investigation and public consultation on many of the sensitive issues.

The recommendations cover a wide range of issues. The Committee recommends that kindergarten programs always be provided in the core of the school; maximum class sizes of 16 for JK and 18 for Sk; establishing two entry points for children into Kindergarten and Grade 1; the development of a plan to ensure equitable access to ECE programs for Francophones; the preparation of implementation guidelines to include a multicultural analysis of extending and improving ECE and the development of a multi-year plan with specific targets and timelines to ensure that every school has suitable child care facilities available to it.

The Committee also emphasizes the need for coordination between schools and child care programs, within and between ministries, and between training faculties and colleges. The report recommends the development of a plan by December 1990 to restructure the overall system of pre- and in-service training in order to enhance preparation for teaching and specializing in the early years. It also states that Faculties of Education should offer more courses and a specialized program in early childhood education as soon as possible. To achieve



this the report recommends establishing a Task Force by December 1990 to examine the competencies, skill and experience needed to teach young children. This Task Force would also examine special needs identification, assessment and teaching strategies.

In addition, the Committee recommends that the Ministries of Community and Social Services and Health investigate whether child care centres are currently able to obtain equitable access to necessary special health services for children; that Education, COMSOC and Health develop a plan to ensure early identification of special needs; that the Ministry of Education develop a plan for the expansion of parenting education and that Education, in consultation with COMSOC and Health, and the social services sector, develop a policy paper on the concept of community or neighbourhood schools. Finally, the Committee recommends an interministerial task force to analyze the wide range of health, social and other services currently available to children and their families.

The NDP attached a dissenting opinion to the report for two reasons:

1. Because of the Committee's failure to systematically attack the government's lack of planning for early childhood education programs; and
2. Because of their view of the need to place existing childcare facilities in schools under the direction of the Ministry of Education.



CAPPING CAP

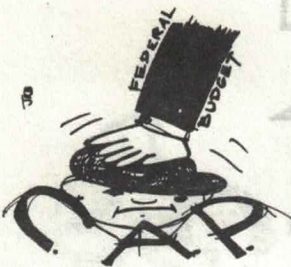
In February, this year, the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care denounced the federal government's budget proposal to impose a ceiling on increases in money for the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP). It called on the federal government to reinstate full cost-sharing with the provinces and it called on the provincial government to launch a court action to prevent the federal action. The 5% ceiling on increases in federal CAP funding was part of the February federal budget and will affect the three "fiscally stronger" provinces - Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

The Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) is the mechanism which, since 1966, has required the federal government to share funding, dollar-for-dollar, with the provinces to cover child care subsidies, social assistance and other social services.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, along with other social development organizations, unions and women's groups, argued that the capping of CAP violated the Canada Assistance Plan Act. Under the act, the federal government cannot amend or end CAP agreements at any time without the mutual consent of the Minister and the province, or by providing one year's notice. By acting unilaterally, the government has betrayed the trust of the provinces and violated its own law.

The three provinces in question contain half of Canada's 185 million welfare recipients, and 41,000 of Canada's 100,000 estimated child care subsidy recipients. Any reduction in benefits will create deeper poverty among recipients and make it more and more impossible for low-income Canadians to gain access to subsidized child care.

In his last budget, Ontario Treasurer Robert Nixon used the federal government's proposed cap to limit the province's own expenditures on day care. Nixon's budget also delayed welfare reform and increased welfare and shelter payments by 5%, barely keeping pace with the rate of inflation.



On June 15, the B.C. Court of Appeal struck down the 5% cap on federal transfer payment increases set out in Michael Wilson's last budget. The court said Wilson could not arbitrarily cut transfer payments to the provinces. Anticipating a new announcement from Treasurer Nixon, Janet Davis, President of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care said, "We can now get Ontario's day care policy back on the rails. Queen's Park simply has no excuse not to expand the child care services to meet the needs of Ontario's families."

But so far, the Ontario government has given no indication of lifting its tissue-thin veil for cutting back expansion of child care in the 1990-91 budget year despite the evidence from its own ministry staff. The Attorney General's Office now believe that the terms of CAP are secure and any unilateral action by the federal government would be unconstitutional. In addition, officials in the provincial government have confirmed that the surplus in the 1990-91 budget actually resulted from Ontario's recovery of outstanding transfer payments under CAP from previous years.

We now expect the Premier to keep his promise and spend the \$600 million surplus in this fiscal year on the implementation of social assistance reforms and child care expansion. So far, there has been a deafening silence!

The federal government is equally as intransigent. Immediately following the B.C. Court of Appeal ruling, the Attorney-General, Kim Campbell, announced that the government would appeal the ruling. The Act (Bill C-69) was passed in the House of Commons and sent to the Senate where it will be examined this fall.

The Senate should be urged to reject final passage of the bill to limit transfer payments in light of the B.C. court ruling, making the Act illegal. In addition, this election should be used as an opportunity to pressure the Liberals to agree that, if returned to office, they will keep their promises for an expanded child care system and not use federal buck-passing as an excuse to retreat.



**Impact of the GST on A Two-Income Family with Two Children
(or Why the Goods and Services Tax is Regressive)**

Income	GST Paid	% of Income
\$ 20,000	\$1,036	5.2
30,000	1,554	5.2
50,000	2,114	4.2
100,000	3,920	3.9

The amount of GST paid does increase with income, but the proportion of income taken by the tax actually falls as income rises.

Women's Program Funding Partially Reinstated

Months of protesting have finally paid off. The walk-ins, sit-ins, takeovers, "Weiner Roasts", letters, and phone calls did the trick -- the federal government was embarrassed enough to reinstate close to \$400,000 of the \$1.2 million cut from the Secretary of State Women's Program this fiscal year. This will bring the Women's Program budget up from \$10.4 to \$10.8 million.

New Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

On February 23, 1990, The Honourable Mary Collins (M.P. for Capilano-Howe Sound, B.C.) was given the portfolio of Minister Responsible for the Status of Women in a cabinet shuffle. She also retained her responsibilities as Associate Minister of National Defence.





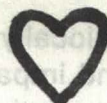
To the Ministry of Community and Social Services for filing notice of intention not to renew the licence of Kids-R-U's of Durham Region after months of repeated complaints and failure on the part of the ownership to meet the Day Nurseries Act Regulations.



To Marg Engel of Toronto Area Ministry Child Care Office, for coming clean on the real situation on the freeze to program development funding.



To Jean Charest, Minister of State for Youth whose Ministry recently released *Job Futures: The Handbook*, a publication providing "in-depth information on the present and future employment prospects" to assist young people in choosing careers. Under the category of Education and Counselling, a two year community college course, one of the employment prospects listed is "babysitter in day-care centres".



To the Etobicoke Child Care Network's for writing to Charest condemning the Handbook for portraying early childhood educators as "babysitters" and pointing out that this portrayal is harmful and demeaning to the profession.



To Health & Welfare Canada for putting the Aboriginal Child Care Commission funding on hold until April 1991 and putting a halt to their cross-Canada child care needs study.



Sarnia

On Elizabeth Van Stam's retirement this year from a 21 year career as Coordinator of the Lambton College ECE Program in Sarnia, a new ECE Advocacy award was established.

ECE Coordinators from Community Colleges across Ontario (in consultation with Elizabeth) have formulated the procedures for an Annual Bursary to be distributed annually to one ECE graduating student in the Province of Ontario. ECE Coordinators may nominate one student per college, who meets the following criteria:

The successful candidate must have demonstrated the ability to advocate in the field of Early Childhood Education and a commitment to professionalism. The Chair of the Ontario College's of Applied Arts and Technology (OCAAT) ECE Executive Committee will make an announcement of the recipient at the annual OCAAT ECE Conference each May.

Elizabeth has advocated for the field of ECE locally, provincially and nationally with an energy and impact which is admired by all those who know her! She may have retired her position at Lambton College, but we anticipate her advocacy efforts will always continue.

Janine Zarycki
Lambton Coalition

Peterborough

At last we have an office! We are located at 106 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 2S5 (705) 741-2902. Please feel free to contact us and let us know what is happening in your region.

At this time, we have several projects on the go. We are developing an orientation kit that will specifically outline our goals for the next year. We are also attempting to put together a fact sheet on child care needs in Peterborough. In addition, we have targeted several local groups that we are interested in working with over the next few years.



Our frustrations with our local government officials and their obvious lack of support for child care continues to plague us. We have recently begun a letter writing campaign directed at our M.P.P. to inform him that we will no longer permit his complacency on the issues of child care. We demand that he take a public stand in favour of promoting better access to child care.

We are interested in networking with all of Ontario's local coalitions. We would like to thank the Metro coalition for giving us a warm welcome and an open ear. In addition, we would like to thank the Ontario Coalition for putting up with our endless phone calls. Special thanks to Sue Colley and Laurel Rothman for speaking at the Moving Forward conference recently held here in Peterborough.

Mary Jo Sullivan

Peterborough Coalition for Better Child Care

Waterloo

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo has extended their priority list to include graduate students and other categories of parents who had previously been unable to receive daycare subsidies. The Graduate Students Association of the local university has been trying for fifteen years to include students. They may now receive daycare subsidies. The change came about because the Waterloo Region Coalition for Better Child Care and the Student Federation contacted LEAF to see if these exclusions were possible violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Human Rights Code. Upon being told that they had a possible case, a graduate student obtained a legal aid lawyer. This lawyer informed the Region of Waterloo about the possible violations. After much delay the Region of Waterloo followed staff recommendations and changed the priority list. Councillors (Regional) also queried whether the priority list itself which put single mothers before married parents was not also a violation of the Charter. Upon being told that it probably was, it was suggested that the Region investigate other types of priority lists. The Region, the Coalition and the University community will also be looking at direct funding for students from the Province of Ontario.

Jane Mitchell

Waterloo Region Coalition



Northwestern Ontario

One of the major difficulties in the remote regions of the province is obtaining qualified staff and keeping them. This problem has recently become acute in the northwest. From 1986 to the present, the turnover in supervisors in the region has been 50% in Native childcare centres and 72% in the small regional communities. Several have turned over two or three times during this time period. Child care centres located outside the Thunder Bay area find it difficult to attract ECE graduates for teacher positions. Some reasons for the shortages of qualified staff are:

1. The threat of closure (1983-1986) took it's toll and some workers sought other jobs or went back to university;
2. The uncertainty of the future of day care in their community may have discouraged students from taking ECE;
3. Some workers who graduated in the late 70's and early 80's are now raising children of their own and staying home for a few years;
4. Low wages;
5. A greater degree of professional self esteem is available in other fields; and
6. High worker mobility in Northwestern Ontario, therefore ECE's frequently leave communities because of spouse's employment.

Recently the Native communities in Northwestern Ontario expressed interest in the concept of Confederation College delivering an Early Childhood Education program directly to their reserves.

As a result of these enquiries, the college had a series of Native Early Childhood Education conferences to gain the Native Community's perspective on the provision of ECE Training. Conferences were held in Sioux Lookout, Kenora, and Thunder Bay. These conferences produced a great deal of information on:

- how much interest communities have for ECE Training on the reserves;



- which communities may be interested;
- program models on how to deliver training;
- issues related to the delivery of training on reserves;
- recommendations on how the college should proceed on a number of areas related to delivery, curriculum, support for learners, and other areas as identified by participants.

As a result of these conferences and the recommendations in the report of the conferences, the expectations and enthusiasm for an on-site pilot project has been created. Seven Native communities have expressed interest in becoming possible pilot project sites for September of 1990. Unfortunately, as of the writing of this article no site has been chosen. Is this another case of receiving input from the community and then shelving the information? Seven Native communities would like the answer to this question.

The growth of child care in the Northwest is in a precarious state. Service delivery to many communities has been non-existent. Of the 171 communities in Northwestern Ontario, only 20 provide childcare services, with 6 additional communities having nursery school opportunities for children. Clearly, the challenge for the childcare community in the 90's will surpass any that we have seen to date.

Lee Angus

Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee

London

(from Ontario Coalition Against Poverty newsletter)

Recently, I presented a childcare brief to the Day Care Advisory Committee for the City of London. Before I started researching for the brief, I assumed, because of the many so-called reforms and increased budgets, that childcare problems had drastically changed from when I required them some eighteen years ago. I was wrong! The horrendous pressures and stress put on people by the system are inhuman and discriminatory against the working poor.

I abhor the terminology day care. I am concerned with child care, but unfortunately most subsidized child care facilities have regulated business hours. What about the split-shift or shift workers? They are forgotten.



Applicants for subsidy are unaware that their debt load is NOT considered in the calculations for subsidy, nor is subsidy available for 'late' fees (some day care centres charge this fee if you do not pick up your child by a specified time - \$1.00 per minute late).

Sickness of a child creates new problems and panic. Most day care centres and private home care refuse to accept a child if they are running a fever. Some facilities are available but most people are not aware of who or what they are. The people aware of these facilities cannot use them for several reasons.

1. Kimberly Quality Care Nursing Services provide good hours and service, but their rate is 12.50 per hour and NO subsidy provision;
2. London private home day care is subsidized, but the child must leave his home (many parents are not willing to remove a sick child from his home, understandably so, particularly with very small children), and
3. Merrymount Children's Centre advertised in the London Free Press on April 17, 1990 that a program for sick children would be started in April of this year. April has past - no program, nor a date set for implementation.

Transportation costs fall on the recipient. Most people cannot afford this additional burden. Only three facilities that I am aware of provide transportation, but with a price that is not subsidized. Most recipients that I spoke to are billed approximately \$32.50 every two weeks. On top of this, one day care restricts transportation to a two mile radius.

We are experiencing a "body count" of children forced into early responsibilities by lack of adequate child care in all the systems - family services, law enforcement, substance abuse, family abuse, inability to focus on education, etc. What government may be saving at one end of the scale (child care) they spend on the other end to reclaim broken lives.

When will this province invest in prevention? When will



there be a realization that temporary support (childcare, family benefits, etc.) with consistent, clear policies is a wiser investment in the future than the band-aid approach which is clearly the focus of this and preceding governments.

I can quote statistics, but each number for me is a live person with real problems and fears. Each of these numbers represents a failure in the system to show an early, supportive process to prevent the ultimate discouragement and constant need to "Fix".

Colleen Debert

London Union of Unemployed Workers



DAY CARE AND THE GST

The following is a letter from the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Child Care at the University of Western Ontario informing Finance Minister Michael Wilson of the real impact the GST will have on child care centres.

To His Honourable Michael Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of the president's Advisory Committee on Campus Child Care (PACCCC) at the University of Western Ontario.

We would like to register our concern about the impact of the GST on non-profit child care. Our committee is in the process of developing a proposal to build a child care facility at this University. As part of the planning process for the Centre we have an estimated operating budget for a facility designed to support 120 full time equivalents. The Goods and Services Tax will inflate our yearly cost of operation by about \$9,600. This is a substantial amount of money for a child care centre struggling to break even on costs and keep child care affordable for parents.

Like many other non-profit child care centres we will not be receiving 40% of our operating money in grant or subsidy form, from any of the three levels of government, and therefore will not be eligible for a rebate on the GST paid out. As child care services are not taxable, it seems evident that child care centres are expected to absorb this extra cost.

The argument for the GST is that it will replace the 13.7% manufacturers sales taxes. It seems unlikely that manufacturers will voluntarily decrease their prices by 13.7%. Even if a cross-the-board reduction in prices was government-mandated, the logistics of monitoring this process would be next to impossible.

It is extremely misleading to tell parents that child care services are not subject to the GST. We all know that child care is expensive. The only thing that a child care centre has to sell is its service. As a group concerned about the issues of accessibility and affordability of quality child care, we are distressed that the proposed GST will force us to raise our per diem rates.

Cynthia Camp

President's Advisory Committee on Campus Child Care



Centennial College ECE Post-Diploma Program

In February, Centennial College became the first college in Ontario to offer the Early Childhood Education post-diploma program entitled, "Supervising/Administering Early Childhood Settings". The program is designed to provide knowledge and skills in supervision and administration of Early Childhood Education settings. Courses offered include: advanced professional communication; computer applications in ECE administration; management and leadership skills; ECE curriculum design and implementation; staff supervision and development; financial planning, management and resources; advocacy and professionalism in ECE, and cost \$81.00 each. To receive a certificate you must complete eight academic courses (five at 45 hours each; three at 30 hours each) and one supervised field practicum of 210 hours. For more information about the program contact the Co-ordinator, Abbie Robinson-Armstrong at 416-694-3241, ext. 3235.

Unique Program Developing at York University

The Student Centre Child Care Committee, chaired by Lee Wiggins, is still working on the development of an innovative licensed child care program as well as a Parent-Child Resource Centre. In response to the lack of existing programs sensitive to the specific needs of students who are also parents, CUEW/SCTTE Local 3 and the Student Centre Corporation have worked together to make this flexible model of child care a near-reality. Originally scheduled to open in the summer of 1990, construction delays have moved the tentative opening to January 1991.

The Student Centre Child Care Centre will operate as a non-profit organization and will be headed by a volunteer Board of Directors which will consist of members of relevant York University constituencies and elected parents and staff.

Plans are to operate the licensed component of the facility during the day with three blocks of time. During each block the facility will have space for 22 toddlers and preschoolers. Parents/caregivers would sign up for these licensed blocks on a per term basis. In addition, there will be a limited number of casual or emergency care spaces.



The Resource/Drop-In Centre for parents and children, will provide both informal and more organized services, including childcare registries, information/speaker/film series, workshops, toy and book lending library etc.)

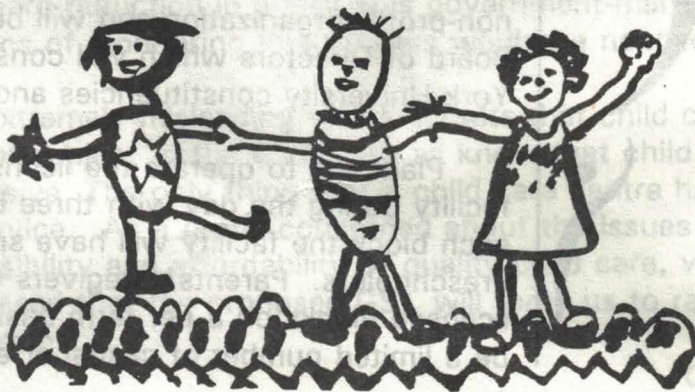
Early research conducted by Z. Sonia Ostrowska and Karen Gold helped to determine the feasibility of a child care/resource centre designed to meet the needs of a largely student population. The final report on the centre by Z. Sonia Ostrowska and Tricia Willis identified that there are special needs in a student population such as emotional, material and social support, access to information about family-related topics and access to child care.

The York University Student Centre Childcare Corporation wants to address these special needs by providing part-time, flexible childcare options, limited emergency care and a parent child resource centre which should encourage community-building among student-parents, caregivers, and child care professionals in the York community.

There has been much interest in this program-in-progress from other educational institutions and will hopefully be a model for flexible child care services at these other centres. The integration of high quality, non-profit child care programs with these institutions will undoubtedly help to increase accessibility of post-secondary education.

During the building process, the SCCC Committee will be working on a final constitution, job descriptions, terrace/playground design and fundraising.

Michele Glassford



Christine Lever Memorial Award

Umbrella Central Day Care Services of Toronto has established The Christine Lever Memorial Award to be presented annually to an Early Childhood Educator requiring financial assistance to continue their professional development and deemed to be an asset to the day care field. The award is in memory of Christine Lever, a founder of Today's Child, Tomorrow's Future, a non-profit community-based daycare, a board member of Direction 2000, and a member of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. For more information, nomination forms, and to make donations to the award contact: Umbrella Central Day Care Services, 361 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1P1, 416-461-0958.

Daycare Diaper Dilemma

Disposable diapers have long been a concern of the environmentalists. This is not surprising given the following facts: In the City of Toronto, alone,

- more than 30,000 trees and 450 tonnes of plastic are consumed each year to manufacture the disposable diapers used by infants;
- an estimated \$500,000 is spent each year to collect and dispose of soiled diapers;
- it is estimated that the 17,500 babies under the age of two and a half who use disposable diapers generate approximately 43 million soiled diapers annually

Recently, Hester How Day Care in Toronto, converted their concern for the environment into action by completing a three-month trial program using a cloth diaper service. They found that not only was it more 'environmentally friendly,' but it was also more cost effective.

As more and more young children are placed in child care, centres are becoming one of the major contributors to the waste disposal crisis. But as Maureen Rao, director of Hester How, points out, centres can have a direct impact on protecting and preserving the environment by using cloth diapers. Her centre will continue to use a cloth diaper service, and she highly recommends the program to other day care centres. She would be happy to share the details of their successful cloth diaper program. Contact Maureen Rao, 416-392-7981.



Les Garderies Francophones

Le Réseau ontarien des services de garde francophones est à la recherche d'éducatrices qualifiées détenant un diplôme d'éducation des petits ou l'équivalent, qui désirent travailler dans les garderies francophones de Toronto.

Plusier postes sont disponibles immédiatement ou pour septembre prochain. Les échelles de salaires varient entre 18 000\$ et 28 000\$ par année.

Les personnes intéressées à soumettre leur candidature sont priées d'envoyer un Curriculum vitae à l'adresse suivante:

Réseau ontarien des services de garde
francophones
Région du Centre
3374, croissant Masthead
Mississauga (Ontario) L5L 1H1

Pour plus de renseignements, vous pouvez communiquer avec madame Claire McCullough au (416) 569-3325 ou sans frais au 1-800-387-8174.

Allenby Day Care is seeking a dedicated, professional supervisor to run their dynamic 10 month program. Excellent salary and benefits. Located in Board of Education facility. Call Clara at 482-2694 and leave message. Position to start September 1990.



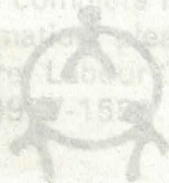
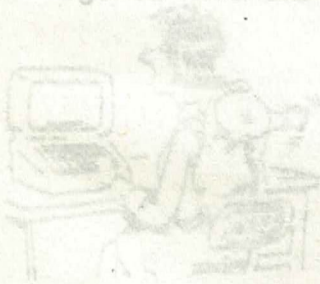
OFF THE PRESS!***The Child Care Management Guide:***

a comprehensive manual to assist members of boards of directors of non-profit child care centres in understanding their responsibilities and carrying out their roles. Published by the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, Available Fall 1990. Cost \$50.00 (OCBCC Group Members will receive a free copy upon request)

New and Improved Childcare Challenge

Many of our reader are familiar with the Coalition's publication "*Childcare Challenge: Organizing in Ontario*". Good news...this comprehensive child care advocacy tool has recently been updated and expanded. Now available in binder format, the 130 page publication provides insight into such issues as the financing of childcare services; the problems with the current child care system; pay equity for child care workers; how to lobby politicians; and research findings on child development and child care. *Childcare Challenge: Organizing in Ontario* costs \$20.00 and is available from the Coalition office. Bulk rates will be provided for purchases of 100 or more copies.

To place your order or receive more information contact: Sonja Osberg, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, 297 St. George Street, Toronto, M5R 2P8, 416-324-9080.



Make It Multicultural - Musical Activities For Early Childhood Education

This book presents a song and music focus for the development of a preschool curriculum aimed at encouraging multicultural awareness in both regular and English as a Second Language (ESL) settings. It is designed to accomplish two goals: to increase preschoolers' sensitivity to other cultures, as well as their own, through a song and music-based curriculum; and to broaden early childhood educators' programming in the multicultural area.

Material has been drawn from a variety of sources, including books, tapes and albums. In addition, information and ideas arising from consultations with community experts in both the multicultural and Early Childhood Education (ECE) fields, and discussions with parents and families of different cultures regarding special holiday practices, songs etc. have been incorporated. This manual offers a fun time to observe and learn about how people of other cultures enjoy and enhance their daily lives through music.

Developed with the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology, the manual will be distributed to all licensed pre-schools and day care centres (including private home day care centres) in the province of Ontario, to all ESL preschool programs, and to all of the Ontario community college ECE training programs. Out of province enquiries should be directed to: Mohawk College Bookstore, c/o Mohawk College, Fennell & West 5th, P.O. Box 2034, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3T2. The cost of the publication is \$17 plus postage and handling of \$5. The Mohawk College Bookstore will only accept mail orders.



The Women's Bureau of Labour Canada has released two Reports of interest to the child care sector.

Leave for Employees with Family Responsibilities

This first report examines the question of leave for workers with family responsibilities. Among the areas of study included in the report are: the socio-economic and demographic changes that have created a need for family responsibility leave; the positions provided by various employer and employee organizations and community groups; the statutory provisions for family responsibility leave in Canada and elsewhere; the nature of family responsibility leave policies in Canada; and options for leave for workers with family responsibilities. Published in 1990, the report is 185 pages long, and is available in either French or English.

Work-Related Child Care In Canada

This report provides information on work-related child care programs and services in Canada today. The information may be of use to employers, employees, unions, professional organizations, parents and early childhood educators who wish to find out more about this topic. Chapter 1 provides an overview on the subject of work-related child care programs and services. The main body of the report, Chapters 2 - 11, describes specific types of work-related child care programs. Chapters 12 through 15 feature key issues in work-related child care today as well as future directions. An annotated bibliography on work-related child care is appended. This report was published in 1988, is 116 pages long, and is available in either French or English.

The Women's Bureau has also published a bilingual fact sheet on parental leave as well as a bilingual pamphlet on leave for employees with child care responsibilities.

For a complete list of the publications available and ordering information, please contact the Women's Bureau Reference Centre, Labour Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J2, (819)997-1551.



Rural Poverty

**By Joyce Rigley, People Against Poverty, Bancroft
(from Ontario Coalition Against Poverty Newsletter)**

Children living in rural poverty and those living in urban poverty are, in some ways, very very different. There is, however, one striking similarity in their situations; they both face enormous prejudice in the realm of childcare.

You would think that in a democracy, poor children would have the same rights as other children, with a share in the childcare dollars and the services to meet their needs. Unfortunately, this is very far from being true. The reality is that poor children have no options at all for childcare unless their parents are working or going to school. While strides towards democracy in Europe and Africa are being cheered on, a system of haves and have-nots is being supported and accepted in Canada and perpetuated in Ontario by the Peterson Liberals.

Poor children continue to suffer. In Canada we have the second highest level of child poverty in the industrial world, even though the general standard of living is one of the highest. The effects of poverty on children are devastating. It drains them of health, hope and opportunity.

Opportunity is something that childcare could offer to poor children and their families. As a single parent myself, I could actually look for work if childcare were available. It's ridiculous to assume that family or friends will take on this responsibility. The childcare dollars that are out there, such as they are, are not being distributed in a way that is fair to the poor.

In North Hastings, the Children's Resource Centre received \$70,000 and does not provide one childcare space. Its mandate is to "provide caregivers with the opportunity to improve the quality of childcare services they provide". As far as People Against Poverty is concerned, this looks pretty bleak and is almost assuredly, a blueprint for the privatization of childcare. Children of the working poor who qualify for a subsidy, as well as the other children who live in any of the twelve municipalities outside Bancroft, may have the opportunity to use what is called "Private Home Daycare". This means that people will have little childcare businesses throughout North Hastings in their own homes.

This is a frightening thought when one considers the statistics on child abuse. The Reeve of Bancroft recently said that North Hastings is among the top in this area.

The Bancroft Children's Centre received \$30,536 in '89/90 for the provision of eight subsidized spaces. These are the only spaces in North Hastings; a mere token for the working poor.

These two measures total \$100,536. In addition, local MPP Jim Pollock recently announced that North Hastings Childcare Services (an amalgamation of childcare services in NH) would receive \$481,650 this year. This will go towards the construction of a multi-purpose childcare centre. The working poor have been promised that "additional subsidized spaces will be approved by the Ministry's Kingston Area Office to coincide with the expansion". What expansion?! More than a half a million dollars and no promise of childcare for children living in poverty. THAT'S EQUALITY!!

In our area, welfare claims have gone up by 104% due to the closing of Martin Lumber and the collapse of spin off jobs. This is in addition to the already high rate of unemployment in North Hastings. There are obviously a lot of children who will not be eligible for childcare. Who is going to take care of the needs of children living in poverty? Not the Ministry of Community and Social Services who administer childcare dollars.

P.A.P has been trying to get the Ministry to acknowledge and address this problem for over four years now. In order to have an impact at the community level, poor people must represent themselves on boards and committees. This has proven to be an insurmountable task for P.A.P; we have been blocked at every turn. According to the Chair of the North Hastings Childcare Services Board, there is not one person on that publicly funded body who represents people living in poverty. This is despite the fact that the M.C.S.S. spent \$20,000 of public money on a study that showed how almost half of the population of N. Hastings, in 1988, lived below the poverty line. This is a travesty!

It is Ontario's shame to openly discriminate against children living in poverty. They justify it by using the word 'priority' and then they kick you if you complain about it.

The 8th Annual Native Child Care Conference

Over 120 Early Childhood Educators from all over Ontario and even some representatives from Manitoba, recently attended the 8th Annual Native Day Care Conference, June 26 to 29, 1990, sponsored by the Mississaugas of New Credit. The conference was organized by Bev Longboat, Supervisor of the New Credit Children's Centre and was held on the New Credit Reserve, located just outside of Hagersville, Ontario.

The conference was a great success with 40 plus workshops arranged for the participants around the theme of "Respect All Children". In particular, Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres presented a wonderful workshop on "Life Cycle Responsibilities". Sylvia with great oratorical skill, addressed traditional understanding of child development as a member of a Native community and culture. She encouraged all adults, including Early Childhood Educators responsible for child care to see the continuum of holistic development needed to transmit culture. Sylvia challenged Early Childhood Educators to evaluate their programming content to reflect their respective Native traditions in all aspects of the daily child care routine. I would encourage anyone having an opportunity to hear her speak, do so, as it will be a valuable and stimulating experience.

Conference participants were reminded that Native child care centres have a unique opportunity to introduce their children to traditional ways and language which is quickly being eroded. For example, the children of the Mississaugas of New Credit are now being re-introduced to their lost Ojibwa language, through the work of a Native Language Committee and through their day care experiences.

The New Credit Children's Centre serves children from both the New Credit and neighbouring Six Nations Reserve. In total, 32 children from 2.6 to 9 years are being served in the program. It began as an informal 8 week summer babysitting program, then grew under a one year Canada Work's Program. The centre finally received funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to renovate a World War 2 army barracks to house the program and provide the necessary toys and equipment for a permanent



child care centre.

The 9th Annual Native Child Care Conference is in the planning stages. Anyone wishing further information as to where it will be held should call Bev Longboat at the New Credit Children's Centre, (416) 768-1133. We will look forward to next year's conference!

Leona Rodall

Early Childhood Educators Confer in Ottawa

This spring, nearly four hundred early childhood educators converged on the Radisson Hotel in Ottawa for their 39th Annual Conference, May 9th to 12th.

Ontario's Association for Early Childhood Education is alive and vibrant, as was demonstrated by the great interest in the 40 well-planned and diverse workshops on topics affecting today's young children. Regrettably, all 12 workshops offered in French did not get adequate registration. This year's theme, "To celebrate the Child", was most appropriate to our efforts at reassessing our profession and at pursuing legislative recognition.

Two keynote speakers, both authors of note, were Dr. Christine Nash, Director of Office for Educational Practice at the University of Guelph, and Dr. Harold Minden, Chairman of the Department of Health Services at York University.

Congratulations and many thanks to the organizing volunteers and wonderful staff at Toronto headquarters! Feedback from the delegates from across the province and a few from Quebec tells of a most successful conference.

The 1991 conference will be held at the Skyline Hotel, Toronto, May 22 - 25, 1991.

Chris Armstrong



September 11 "Stresses and Supports for Parents in the '90s"
 A dialogue with parents and caregivers,
 featuring Dr. T. Berry Brazelton.
 Bluma Appel Theatre, Toronto, 8 p.m.
 Contact: C.M. Hinks Institute
 (416) 366-7723

September 12-13 Preschool Integration... A Step to the Future.
 Sponsored by Regional Municipality of Ottawa-
 Carleton. Contact: Susan Spence (613) 724-
 4106.

September 16 OCBCC Council Meeting
 Member's Lounge, City Hall, Toronto
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 22 "Working with People" - A one-day seminar
 aimed at child care staff, board members and
 parents, covering such topics as: leadership,
 communication, motivation, and delegation.
 Contact: Parent Cooperative Preschool
 Corporation, 4 Buchanan Rd., Scarborough,
 M1R 3V3, (416) 285-7272.

September 21-23 "Partners in Parenting" Private Home Day Care
 Association, Downtown Holiday Inn. Contact:
 Maria DeWit (416) 783-1152

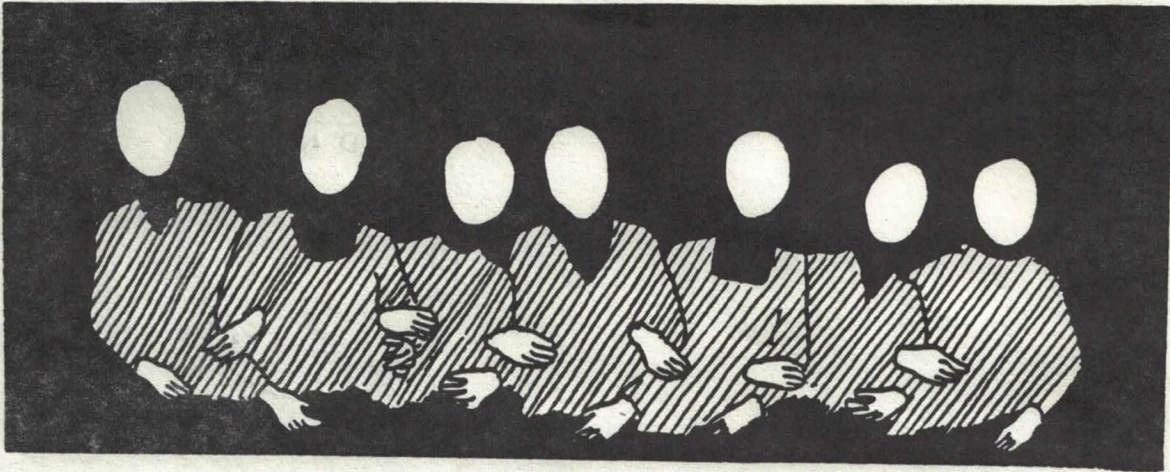
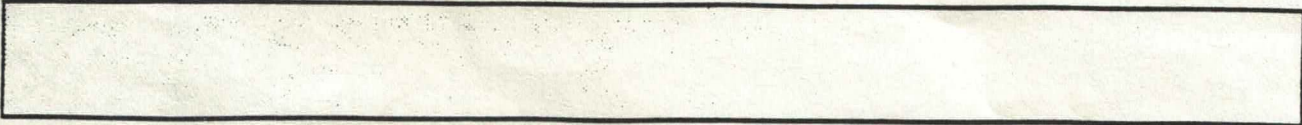
October 22-24 Focus on Child Abuse: Stop the Hurt
 Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse
 5th National Conference
 Delta Chesea Inn, Toronto
 Contact: Ms. D. Wood, Coordinator of Projects,
 IPCA, 25 Spadina Rd, Toronto, M5R 2S9, (416)
 921-3151, FAX (416) 921-4997

October 26-27 Ontario Women's Action Coalition
 Ratifying Meeting
 Ontario Institute for Studies in Education,
 Toronto
 Contact: Romi Mainolfi (416) 324-8939

November 7-8 OCBCC Fall Policy Forum and Lobby
 Downtown Holiday Inn, Toronto
 Contact: Eileen Condon (416) 324-9080

June 5-8, 1991 Children: The Heart of the Matter
 Canadian Child Day Care Federation (CCDCF)
 Charlottetown, PEI.





JOIN THE COALITION TODAY!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Provincial Organizations:

\$25.00	Under 20 members
\$35.00	21-50 members
\$60.00	51-200 members
\$120.00	201-1000 members
\$300.00	1001-5000 members
\$400.00	Over 5000 members

\$25.00	Local Child Care Groups:
\$25.00	Child care centres, union locals, libraries, other organizations or institutions
\$12.00	Individuals

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

I/We enclose the fee of \$_____

I/We enclose a donation of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone:(h) _____
(w) _____

Organization/Day Care Centre: _____

Provincial Riding: _____

I only want a subscription to the Newsletter and enclose \$20.