

# CHILD CARE CHALLENGE

SUMMER, 1989

NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE



PHOTO JACQUES GRENIER

## QUEBEC FIGHTS BACK!

New Quebec Funding Policy Opposed By Child Care Groups

by Lise Corbeil-Vincent

In a spectacular show of solidarity, some 7000 parents and day care workers from across the province

Cont'd on page 24... Quebec

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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 can 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 Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care** has

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Many of us look forward to the "dog days" of summer as an opportunity to relax and catch up on reading. Newspapers and magazines are filled with suggestions to read best-selling fiction, the latest mystery novel or sizzling biographical expose to occupy those leisurely afternoons at the beach.

Your OCBCC newsletter, while not in the same category as the latest bestseller, does contain lots of news which you, as an advocate for child care, are sure to find exciting, thought-provoking and energizing. As you read through the articles and features contained in this edition, please keep in mind our fall policy forum and annual lobby which is scheduled for November 8 and 9, 1989. Not only do we at OCBCC hope that you are planning to attend this important event, we urge you to spend some time thinking, talking to colleagues and acquaintances, and communicating to the Coalition your ideas about policy directions which the Coalition should be considering as we enter the 1990s.

Our founding document was entitled **Daycare: Deadline 1990** .... well the "deadline" will soon be upon us. Recognizing that this was an appropriate time for a thorough policy discussion within the organization, the Coalition is organizing the fall policy forum, and, leading up to this, has been conducting a series of "think tanks" with members of the OCBCC Council. We hope that these preliminary discussions will provide a good foundation for our deliberations in the fall. If you would like information about the content of the think tank meetings, or if you have policy ideas to propose to the organization, please get in touch with the OCBCC office.

*Lesley Russell*  
**Editor**

**THE CHALLENGE**

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**INVESTING IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Seven national groups concerned with the welfare of Canada's children have prepared a booklet entitled *A Choice of Futures: Canada's Commitment to Its Children* and a series of pamphlets designed to deal with the problem of child poverty and family well-being. The publication states that Canadian society has "long recognized the importance of [parental contributions]" to society and lists the achievements of Canadian programs in the past half-century in support of families with children. Included in these achievements are: the Unemployment Insurance Act, a federal family allowance, the National Housing Act, federal-provincial cost-sharing, Medical Care Act, pension plans, refundable child tax credit, etc.

The group points out, however, that "at the same time, these policies and programs have not consistently kept pace with changes in economic circumstances, family structures, and the role of families in society." At this time, children make up the largest group of poor people in Canada and more than one million children were growing up in poverty in 1986. The consequences: infant mortality rates among poor children are twice the national average, twice as many poor children fall behind in educational achievement, and the rate of children not in school is twice as high for poor families.

Reasons for child and family poverty have many contributing factors including parental unemployment, low minimum wage, part-time or seasonal work, non-unionized work without benefits (the average wage of many women is only 2/3 that of men.) As well, the purchasing power of family incomes has decreased steadily between

1980 and 1986, the refundable child tax credit and the family allowance were partially de-indexed, tax increases have hit middle and lower income families the hardest, and affordable housing is almost non-existent.

According to *A Choice of Futures*, today's children need to grow up in secure social and economic circumstances if they are to participate fully in society as tomorrow's wage earners, taxpayers and parents." Since governments already pay to deal with the symptoms of poverty and social inequality with group homes and foster parents and child welfare agencies, it seems sensible that they should also commit to offering families with children more financial and social support in order to prevent the cause of the symptoms.



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**PAY EQUITY CAMPAIGN  
"ONE MILLION  
DENIED"**

The Ontario Federation of Labour and the Equal Pay Coalition are undertaking a critical campaign to win pay equity for one million women not covered by the Pay Equity Law. The majority of the 23,000 child care workers in the province are part of the million women excluded from the legislation.

The Campaign will be building support in local areas, lobbying MPPs locally, distributing "One Million Denied" pamphlets, and organizing a letter-writing campaign. In October, the Campaign will focus on lobbying the provincial legislature at Queen's Park.

The Campaign now needs to hear from you about your experience. We need to identify specific women and specific workplaces across the province who are not covered by the law. The only way to make the statistics real to the politicians, the media and the public is to put a 'human face' on the problem, to talk about Jane Doe from the local child care centre who won't get equal pay unless the law is changed. So please write or telephone us now with information about women in your child care centre who won't get equal pay.

INVESTING IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

**ANOTHER BAD NEWS BUDGET!**

The provincial budget delivered by Treasurer Robert Nixon on May 17 was a disappointment. There were no new initiatives to address the immediate crisis in subsidized spaces and lack of dollars to cover 1989-90 operating budgets. Instead, municipalities are going to be left holding the bag by picking up additional money for day care.

A major initiative in the budget is \$194 million for kindergarten programs with all boards of education being mandated to provide half-day junior and senior kindergarten and encouraged to provide full-day senior kindergarten where space is available. This program is scheduled to commence in the 1990-91 school year.

The specifics of the programs will be worked out by a new Secretariat headed by Howat Noble and a reorganized Early Childhood and Elementary Education Unit. At this stage there do not appear to be plans for complementary before school, lunch, after-school or holiday care. Nor has there been any revision to the inappropriate staff-child ratios in the school system.

The other major initiative in the Budget, was the Supports to Employment Program (STEP). It includes a first-year expenditure of \$22 million and was announced as the first initiative to encourage economic independence among social assistance recipients.

**Pay Equity Plans for Child Care Programs DUE January 1!**

Child care centres will be required to file Pay Equity Plans by January 1, 1990 to comply with the Pay Equity Act. All services receiving government subsidies are deemed to be part of the public service. By virtue of the direct operating grant virtually all child care programs are in this category and must therefore fit into the schedule set out for the public service. But don't panic!

Most child care workers don't yet have a remedy under the Act. Because 99% of day care workers work in "all-female establishments".

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they will have no males with whom to compare their wages and therefore won't be able to work out an appropriate pay equity adjustment.

The Pay Equity Commission, now headed by Brigit O'Reilly, is in its second year of studying the "problem" of all-female establishments and their exclusion from the Pay Equity Act. There is agreement contained within the act for a study of the exclusions and a commitment to implementing changes to include women who are not covered. This year, the Commission is carrying out "field studies" of the proposals in the Pay

Equity Report tabled in January of this year and they are planning to have a report ready by the end of the year.

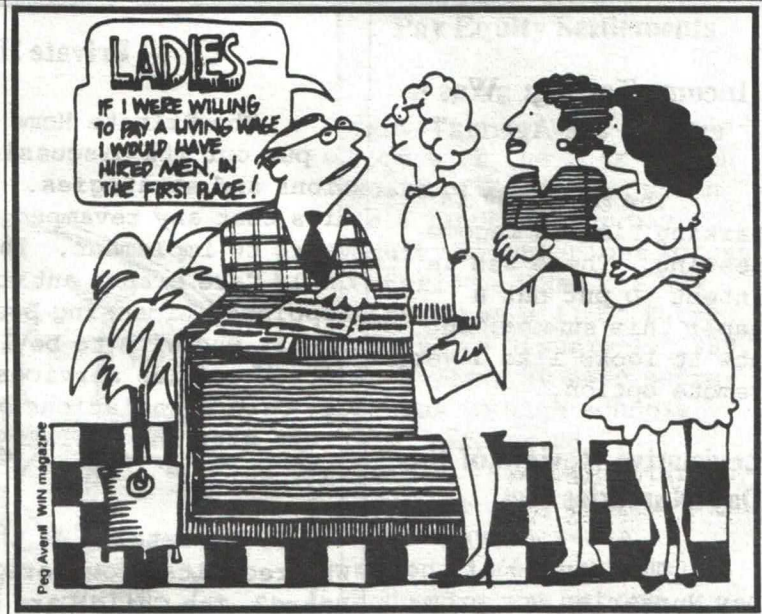
On May 4, the Equal Pay Coalition, including a representative of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, met with Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Greg Sorbara, asking for a clear indication of the Government agenda, a commitment to introduce legislation, to commit himself to fight for funding, to support the Equal Pay Coalition's proposal for a Pay Equity Legal Clinic and to generally represent women's issues to Cabinet. However, Sorbara gave no commitments. Perhaps he needs a few letters and telephone calls pointing out the inequity of not making pay equity available to the underpaid child care workers.

**Province to Go Back on its Promise to Provide No New Funding to Commercial Child Care**

The first meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee since last October has been called. Its purpose: To discuss the Cabinet Submission on Commercial Child Care. Clearly what's on the cards is a proposal to give commercial centres a 100% direct grant with no curbs on new purchase of service agreements and no clear curbs on their ability to masquerade as non-profit operators.

**Capital and Program Development Fund**

The total allocation for capital expenditures in 1989-90 is \$20.5 million. The Branch does not yet know where this money is going. If you know, please let us know, or phone your MPP. Maybe he/she has some info!



**Next Three-Year Funding Cycle in the Planning Stage**

This fall the stage will be set for the development of another three-year planning cycle for child care in Ontario. The last 3 year planning cycle was developed at the time of the introduction of New Directions.

Last time we got 13,000 new subsidized spaces, the introduction of the controversially administered direct operating grant, the failure of the government to switch to income testing, the ambivalence of the government regarding commercial child care, and, of course, the deepening of the crisis of our child care system as we try to continue a high quality service with limited resources, funding, staff shortages and high parent fees.

If you want to have input in the Coalition's submission on the next three-year cycle, please contact the OCBCC Office a 416-324-9080.

## Income Testing: Was it ever on the Agenda?

The Ministry is marking time on income testing. There was an intent to put out a paper this summer, but now it looks like a very remote option.

## Legislative Review of the Day Nurseries Act

The review of the Day Nurseries Act promised in New Directions has begun, but it will undoubtedly be slow and the new act is not even seriously contemplated for 3-5 years.

## Private Home Day Care Review

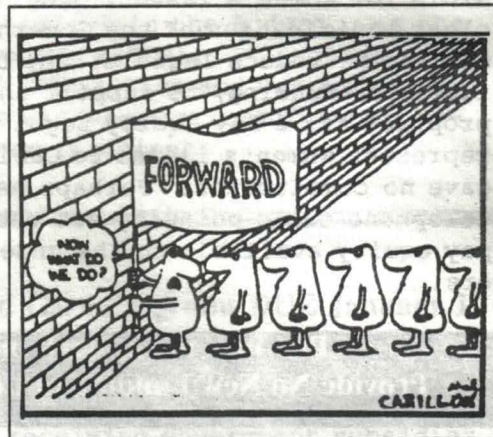
The Private Home Day Care Review is getting ready to put out its discussion paper containing issues, options and strategies. The Child Care Branch freely admits that any revamped system would probably take 20-50 years to implement. The main idea emerging from the Child Care Branch anticipates setting up a government-appointed Licensing Board to license all home care providers who wish to be licensed; a local child care committee to plan services; and a merging of private home day care associations and resource centres (under contract with the Ministry) to provide support to caregivers.

The details of this proposal are still vague. Who recruits providers? The agency? The Licensing Board? The Child Care Committee?

Will there be any difference between agencies and resource centres? Will the resource centres/agencies be liable?

Will licensing be voluntary? How long for? Will we see the development of "legal" and "illegal" informal care?

How will quality be guaranteed? What will licensing consist of? Home visits? Spot checks? Pre-arranged appointments? How do children benefit from this scheme? There are many questions and concerns, all of which we hope to raise over the fall and winter.



## Review of Enforcement Practices

The enforcement review, prompted by the Globe & Mail revelations about the appalling number of violations by day care centres in the province, is being coordinated by the Operations Group in COMSOC. By October, the review should be complete and some concrete proposals for action are expected.

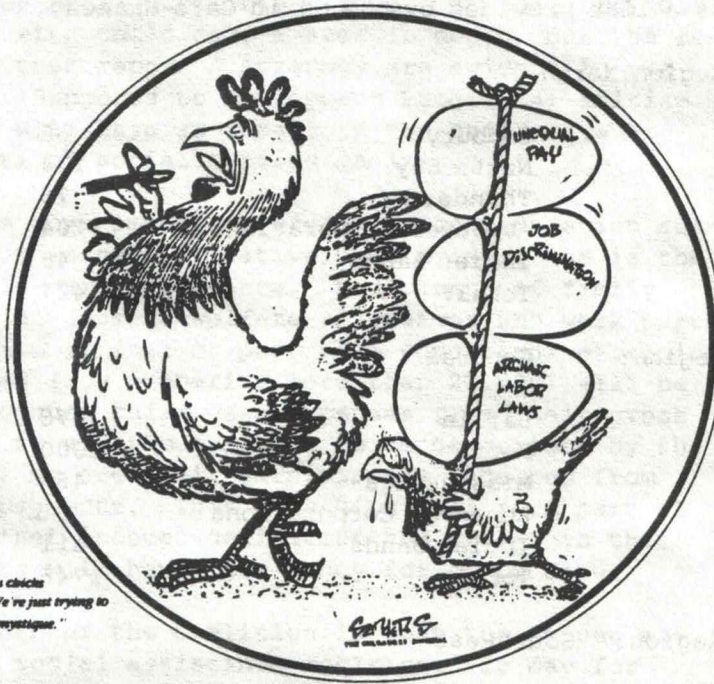
In the meantime, the Ministry is promoting the POSTER as a method of alerting parents to any licensing problems. Keep us informed about any unusual items that appear on the posters in your community.

Pay Equity Settlements

CUPE Local 1734 reports a contract settlement with the York Region Board of Education which is a landmark for pay equity negotiations across Ontario because the new wage rates will be retroactive to January 1, 1989. This year, 20 head secretaries in high schools will receive \$8,791 raises. Head secretaries in elementary schools will get a pay increase of about \$7,650. Special education assistants, school secretaries and assistant head secretaries will also benefit from the pay equity negotiations.

The new pay rates were worked out by comparing the skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions of the women's jobs with jobs performed by men, mostly in the board's custodial staff. The process began by appointing a joint committee with representatives from the union local and the employer. Questionnaires were completed by each member and were used as a basis for rating both female and male-dominated jobs. Ratings were posted and an appeal process was available for members questioning their ratings.

Finally, the pay equity bargaining committee negotiated the pay equity plan using the results of the ratings and set up an implementation schedule. All three parts of the process were ratified by local 1734 membership.



"I don't know what you chicks are complaining about. We've just trying to protect your feminine mystique."

Mailroom Employees At Hamilton Spectator Go On Strike

Ninety-five mailroom employees at the Hamilton Spectator went on strike June 7, 1989. The mail room inserters, 90% of whom are women, want parity with delivery helpers, most of whom are men. The women mail room inserters make \$7.20/hr.; the male delivery helpers make \$12.16/hr. - a difference of \$4.90.

Local 87 of the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild considers this wage difference to be a pay equity issue since both jobs are entry level and are equivalent in skill, effort, and working conditions comparisons. The company has refused to acknowledge that equity is a problem, and says in any case such a problem would be handled through a pay equity plan.

The union says it would be prepared to begin the catch-up with a \$2.50 increase, with future increases made on a scheduled basis.

If you would like to offer support to the strikers, consider boycotting the Spectator and its advertisers or you can phone, write, or fax a message to: Gordon Bullock, Publisher, Hamilton Spectator, 44 Frid Street, Hamilton, L8N 3G3 (Phone 526-3333)

## INSIDE NEWS

The Ontario Coalition For Better Child Care would like to extend its warmest welcome to Kristine Pearson who joins us as a member of the Coalition staff. We look forward to much hard work with Kris as a part of the team.

Also, a sincere welcome goes out to Donna Felder of CUPE, Ontario Division from Kitchener who is now a member of the Executive Committee.

Jane Bertrand has been appointed as director of the Coalition's C-PET (Child Care Parent Education Training) Project funded by the Department of Health and Welfare's Child Care Initiatives Fund. Over the next 18 months, over the next 18 months, the project will be developing manuals, materials and workshops to assist parent boards of directors. Jane has a long history as a day care advocate both as a past supervisor of York University Co-op Day Care and presently as a teacher at George Brown College and is very qualified to do an excellent job with this project. If anyone has any suggestions, information or resources to share, we would appreciate it.

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### Allocation of Subsidized Spaces

Did you get your new spaces this year? The following is a list provided by the Child Care Branch.

#### Region: North

Sudbury	65
North Bay	134
Thunder Bay	76
Approved Corporations	104
Indian Bands	48
<b>Total:</b>	<b>427</b>

#### Region: Central

Barrie	276
Metro	1000
Mississauga	465
Approved Corporations	5
Indian Bands	nil
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1746</b>

#### Region: Southwest

Hamilton	361
London	134
Waterloo	212
Windsor	152
Approved Corporations	344
Indian Bands	16
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1219</b>

#### Region: Southeast

Kingston	40
Peterborough	260
Ottawa	356
Approved Corporations	140
Indian Bands	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>796</b>

**Provincial Total: 4188**

In addition, the Ministry is releasing an additional \$2.5 million for subsidies to complement school-based/schoolaged initiatives announced in 1987.



## SWEENEY'S STEP INITIATIVES AND CHILD CARE

On May 18, 1989 the Minister of Community and Social Services, John Sweeney, announced a series of initiatives to reform the social assistance system in Ontario. The recommendations of the SARC (Social Assistance Review Committee) report *Transitions*, did not deal with child care issues in depth, but the results of that report's strategy are evident in the new STEP (Supports to Employment Programme) initiative and will have an impact on the child care arrangements of social service recipients.

There are some important areas for consideration surrounding this new initiative; the primary one is the new "child care" allowance. Recipients of family benefits or general welfare allowances who work part time or are in full or part time education/retraining programmes (now numbering more than 27,000) will be able to deduct child care expenses from their gross earnings to a maximum amount to be determined by the province, before their earnings are deducted from benefit payments. This deduction will form part of the new 'net income' definition and will mean that recipients will have more money for child care.

One concern of the Coalition is that the amount allowed to social assistance recipients to pay for child care may well be lower than the actual cost in a licensed child care program. This would mean that children of social assistance recipients would necessarily be channelled towards the informal system which often offers poorer quality care. As a result, we may find that the government has created a two-tiered system of child care: high quality licensed

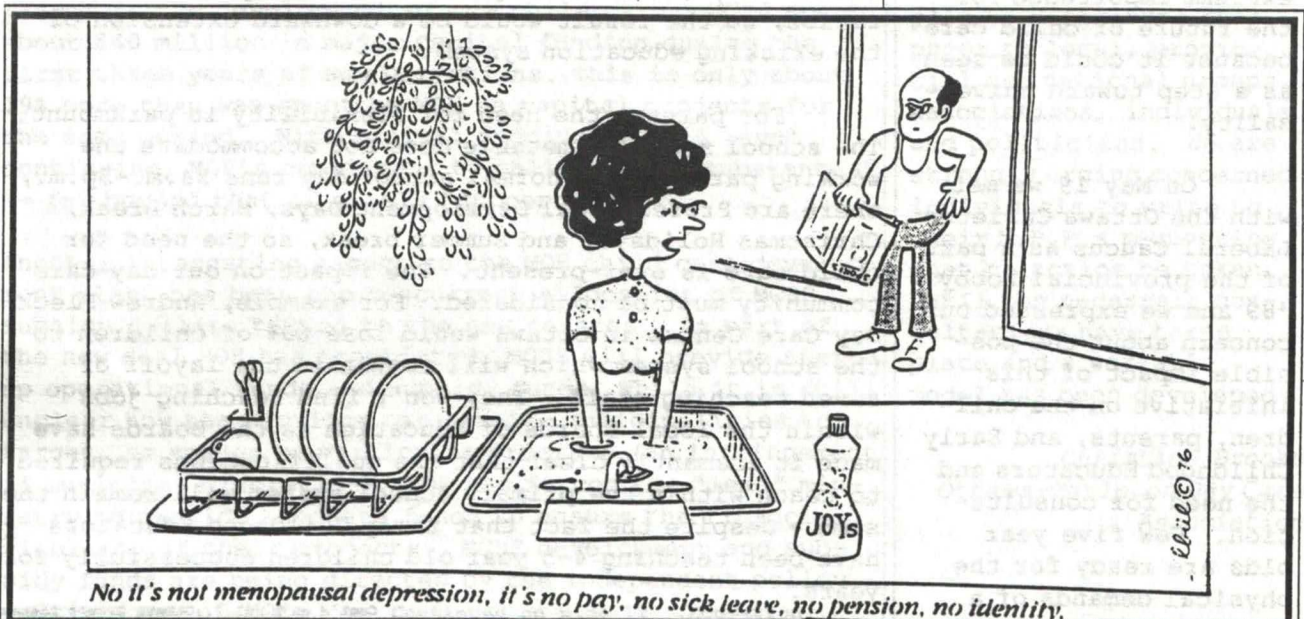
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## INSIDE NEWS

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On behalf of all of the members of the Coalition, the staff would like to express its warmest congratulations to Susan Colley for her well-deserved YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the area of Public Affairs. This award recognizes child care as one of the most important issues of today and recognizes Sue's incredible dedication and hard work in bringing the issue to the forefront of the political agenda. Congratulations Sue and take a well-deserved rest this summer.

Finally, congratulations goes out to two new local branches of the child care Coalition: the Peterborough branch and the Brampton branch. Both groups were formed around the time of the provincial lobby. Best wishes for future action to both groups.



## Ottawa Groups to Prepare Discussion Paper

On April 25, the Throne Speech was read by the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. In it he stated, "My government's long term vision is to make the opportunity for full day Junior and Senior kindergarten available to all four and five year olds." This initiative will be implemented over the next five years.

There are already indications that the Ottawa Board of Education is planning to commence full-day 5 year old kindergarten as of September 1990. The Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association believes this initiative to be of extreme importance for the future of child care because it could be seen as a step toward universality.

On May 19 we met with the Ottawa Carleton Liberal Caucus as a part of the provincial Lobby '89 and we expressed our concern about the possible impact of this initiative on the children, parents, and Early Childhood Educators and the need for consultation. Few five year olds are ready for the physical demands of a

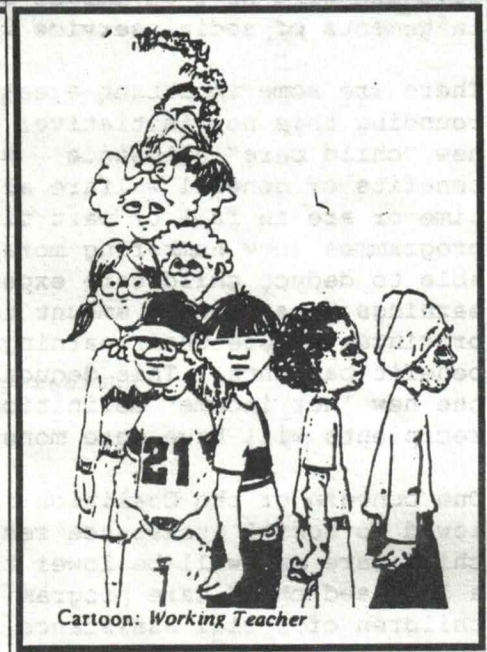
The "jurisdictional issue" for child care - the issue about whether child care should be an educational service or a social service - has been floating around for many years. With the recent provincial Throne Speech and Budget, it looks as if this issue will have to move higher up the agenda - and quickly. In this issue, we begin some public discussion on the topic with two opinion pieces. Please keep the debate alive! Let us have your comments.

full day of formal instruction. For this reason day care programs offering before and after school care for these children provide a program of activities which complement rather than duplicate the kindergarten curriculum. Emphasis is placed on creative, child directed activities rather than structured learning. Also, few five year olds can last the whole day without the opportunity to rest.

### The lower ratios

found in day care programs allow teaching staff to provide both care and education. These ratios are half that currently found in most kindergarten classrooms. As it stands now, there are no provisions to legislate improved ratios, so the result would be a downward extension of the existing education system.

For parents the need for flexibility is paramount. The school system timetable does not accommodate the working parent. The normal school day runs 9a.m.-3p.m., there are Professional Development Days, March Break, Christmas Holidays, and summer break, so the need for child care is ever-present. The impact on our day care community must be considered. For example, Andrew Fleck Day Care Centre in Ottawa would lose 60% of children to the school system which will result in the layoff of seven teaching staff. They won't find teaching jobs within the local Boards of Education as the Boards have made it adamantly clear that the qualifications required to teach within the primary school system will remain the same - despite the fact that Early Childhood Educators have been teaching 4-5 year old children successfully for years.



Cartoon: Working Teacher

Cont'd on p. 11....Ottawa Groups Discuss

## The Ministry of Education and Child Care: Supporting or Leading?

In 1987, New Directions for Child Care outlined for the first time a role for the Ministry of Education (MOE) in the development and support of child care services in Ontario. The MOE was billed as a "supporting" partner to the lead ministry, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). But with the recent announcements in the Throne Speech and Budget, extended capital funding, and an anticipated Fall policy paper, the MOE is poised to move into position to challenge that lead.

### New Directions and MOE

The role of MOE under New Directions includes three main initiatives: providing capital grants to school boards to build child care centres in new schools; encouraging the use of vacant school space for child care; and providing funding to produce public information, undertake research, and initiate pilot projects on school/child care co-ordination.

The \$234,000 (elementary school) and \$450,000 (secondary school) capital grants for every exclusive-use, purpose-built child care centre in new schools has just recently been renewed by MOE for another three years. The \$33 million commitment of the first three years will be extended and will mean that by 1994, the ministry will provide \$52 million in capital funding for 200 new child care centres.

The capital funding initiative clearly makes MOE a major player in the development of new child care. MCSS spent about \$40 million in major capital funding during the first three years of New Directions. This is only about 19% more than was spent by MOE on capital projects for the same period. With capital funding of this level continuing, MOE's commitment to child care is substantial -- far beyond that of merely "supportive".

Another interesting aspect to the MOE child care development plan, has been the concurrent allocation of MCSS subsidy dollars tagged to the new centres. As part of the new deal MOE has negotiated, MCSS will provide start-up operational funds and subsidy funds. While it is still unclear how the province can require municipalities to target the spaces to particular programs (an infringement of municipal discretion), MOE has forced the "lead" ministry to provide adequate funds to ensure the financial viability of their projects. MCSS development and subsidy funds are being directed by the independent policy initiatives of MOE.

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## OTTAWA GROUPS DISCUSS

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There are a lot of local school age programs already in schools that will lose their spaces as a result of this initiative. We are concerned that day care centres will become infant-toddler programs, passing on children to the school system at 3.8 years of age when the "real" learning takes place. We need to ensure that the model established is as a result of consultation between the professionals providing the services, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The Ottawa Carleton Day Care Association is preparing a discussion paper in which we describe a model that we believe meets the needs of children and parents without jeopardizing the job security of the Early Childhood Educators. We plan to distribute this paper to local, provincial and national groups, associations, individuals and politicians. We are strongly urging concerned individuals to write to their M.P.P.s requesting that no action be taken until the necessary consultations have taken place and a workable model has been developed.

Christine Brooks  
Ottawa-Carleton Day Care  
Association

## STEP INITIATIVES

Cont'd from p. 9

quality care for their children and escaping the poverty cycle.

Now is the time for us to have input into this decision. A cabinet submission is being prepared to firm up the definitions and rates allowed as deductions from gross earnings. Write to the Minister of Community and Social Services, John Sweeney, today and ask him to allow social assistance recipients to deduct the full cost of licensed child care.

The STEP initiatives may help social assistance recipients in the short term, but they do little to assist low-income parents with their child care problems in the long term. With the shortage of spaces and the very limited possibilities for recipients to get subsidized child care, it is possible that this initiative may reinforce the tendency for the government to fund child care through a voucher system rather than actually committing to funding the full cost of spaces. The STEP initiatives do nothing to provide subsidized spaces for recipients.

## EDUCATION

Cont'd. from page 11

MCSS has never pegged subsidy spaces to their start-up funds. In fact, new development through MCSS is being restricted by inadequate subsidy levels. Start-up money in the Metro Toronto area is being given only to those centres that will cater to a population that is at least 70% fee-paying. If such priorities continue, new child care initiatives through MCSS may indeed become ancillary to education-sponsored child care development.

The MOE capital funding initiative has been lauded -- but not without criticism. Many boards have protested that the initiative is inequitable. Only boards experiencing population growth requiring new schools are eligible to receive capital funds. Boards with child care programs in existing space cannot get money to renovate or build additions to create exclusive child care space, despite having both the need and the tradition of supporting child care.

### Vacant Space

MOE has also encouraged boards of education to use so-called vacant space for child care - space not currently being used by the school for education programs. While the relationship essentially remains one of landlord to tenant, boards are being asked to work co-operatively with child care programs to increase co-ordination between the two settings.

MOE is encouraging boards to provide this space on a nominal or cost-free basis. However, boards of education are restricted under the Education Act from spending education dollars on non-educational programs, technically requiring them to recover the full occupancy costs from child care programs using school space.

The encouraged use of existing vacant space has other flaws and contradictions. Legislation and space capacity ratings for schools do not allow boards to guarantee child care space on a permanent basis. In other words, child care needs must always come second to educational needs, leaving child care vulnerable to eviction if the space is reclaimed by the school. Many boards and child care programs have pointed out the inequity in security between centres in existing space and those in the purpose-built new-school space. Centres in new schools cannot be taken and used for school classes.

### MOE Response

It is anticipated that MOE will respond to the significant and consistent concerns raised by schools boards and child care providers. We can expect that the final

policy paper due for release in the Fall will loosen legislative restrictions and expand capital funding to make the MOE child care policy more equitable and consistent. The changes will likely strengthen and extend the role of schools in the development and support of child care services.

#### **Kindergarten Initiatives**

The kindergarten initiatives announced in the April 25 Throne Speech stunned everyone -- including officials inside MCSS and MOE. The announcement (rumoured to have been the result of a five minute conversation "between two people"), sent bureaucrats scrambling to develop guidelines, projections and cost estimates for the budget release two weeks later.

The **Foundation Years** initiative will mandate all school boards across the province to offer half-day senior and junior kindergarten within five years. Full-day senior kindergarten will be allowed for boards with space. Capital and operational funding will be given for half-day JK and SK, and operational funding only for full-day SK. Full-day JK is seen as a long term goal.

Both the Premier and the Treasurer linked this initiative to child care. Mr. Peterson said that the new kindergarten programs would solve 20% of the child care needs in Ontario. Mr. Nixon, when hearing of the dashed federal child care initiative, claimed that federal child care funds would have been used to finance the kindergarten initiative.

The MOE **New Directions** and **Foundation Years** initiatives have given the education system a clear and very significant role in the provision of child care services. Although there appears to be no coherent policy strategy for education to "take over" child care, the next five years will see the dramatic growth of school-based and funded early childhood programs.

Child care in the context of the universal, publicly-funded education system, holds great potential for achieving the objectives of the child care movement -- free, non-profit, high-quality, comprehensive services for every child, with highly-paid, organized, professional jobs for those who perform the work.

The education option, as we all know, is not without its problems. The need for improved ratios, class size ceilings, teacher qualifications and adequate funding must be addressed.

But, whether you like it or not, education has moved into the child care realm. The kindergarten initiative has taken us a giant step forward toward universal access to early childhood programs. But this leap appears to have been taken with little assessment of the impact on existing child care services, or examination of program quality issues.

With education positioned to take the lead, advocates must ensure that the cart stays behind the horse -- that progressive, coherent public policy will be developed and implemented. The time has come for education policy to replace welfare policy as the framework for transforming the user-pay, free-market child care system.

*Janet Davis,  
Individual Member,  
Toronto*

## FEDERAL UPDATE

### National Sales Tax for Child Care Abandoned

One good piece of federal budget news was the announcement that child care services will **NOT** be taxed when the new national sales tax is introduced, so at least parents won't have to find that extra 17% on top of an already unaffordable price-tag!



### Beth Symes Wins Right to Deduct Child Care Expenses from Self-Employed Income

Child care has been in the news a lot lately. Not just the politicians are working on it. The Courts have been having their say too. A very significant decision was delivered in the Federal Court of Appeal in May. Judge Bliss stated that "in order for women to have equality in a social and political sense, they must have access to . . . . . and high quality child care." He went on to grant Beth Symes the right to deduct her child from her self-employed income.

Although this statement by Judge Bliss creates a very strong precedent vis-a-vis the importance of child care to women's equality, it reinforces the problems in the child care system yet again. First, it

addresses only the needs of wealthy women: women who are self-employed and can afford a nanny will be able to benefit from it; the vast majority of working women will get no tax relief beyond the tax deduction already allowed.

Secondly, Symes has sought a remedy that the child care movement has continually opposed: to seek relief for the lack of child care through tax schemes. Once again, we would point out that this kind of measure will do nothing to build a child care system and will assist only women, like Beth Symes, who can afford to hire a nanny.

*"In order for women to have equality in a social and political sense, they must have access to quality child care".*

*Judge Bliss, May, 1989.*

### THE FEDERAL BUDGET: When the child care cookie crumbles!

In response to the federal budget, two national campaigns were organized. The first, the Canadian Child Care Budget Bake-Off, was co-sponsored by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) and the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association (CDCAA). Bake-off events were organized across the country on or around June 4, the International Day of the Child. The baked goods were sent to Finance Minister Michael Wilson under the theme: **NO MORE BAKE SAKES FOR CHILD CARE, MR. WILSON! YOU HOLD THE BAKE SALES! WE NEED FUNDING!**

In Toronto, the bakeoff organized by OCBCC took

place on June 3 at the Campus Co-op Daycare, in conjunction with their twentieth anniversary celebration. Though the turnout was less than expected, the children enjoyed making playdough cookies to send to Mr. Wilson and decorating real ones for themselves. Members of the Coalition, and representatives from local daycares and unions dropped by with their 'budget-protest' cookies. As well, those present sent their messages to Mr. Wilson on the back of the OCBCC's Recipe for Child Care. Thanks to all who participated, especially the Ontario Public Service Employees Union for their many 'dollar-sign' cookies, symbolizing the many dollars needed for child care.

National bake-off events continued throughout the week of June 4-11. During this time, Coalition staff (Michele and Fiona) visited child care centres in all six districts of Metropolitan Toronto. They collected baked goods from the following daycares and child care centres: Wilmington/C.H. Best, Humewood, Learning Enrichment Foundation, YMCA, Red Apple, Keelmount, University Settlement House, NYAD, York University Co-op, Ranchdale Rompers, Centro Clinton, Rejoyce Caledon, Martin Luther, Sunny Faces, Braeburn Woods, Broadview Community, Snowflake, and Campus Co-op. We thank the children and staff at all of these centres.

The second campaign, Get the Budget on Track, co-sponsored by NAC, the Pro-Canada Network and the Canadian Union of Railway, Transport and General Workers, also took place June 4-12. The theme of this campaign was 'Breaking the Social Contract'. Representatives of the campaign rode the VIA trains east from British Columbia and west from Nova Scotia, en route to Ottawa.

As the train stopped at major centres along the way, they met with local committees and coalitions and together they voiced their opposition to the Wilson budget for breaking the social contract through the following measures: dumping plans to proceed with new national child care funding; to unemployment insurance; erosion of Family Allowances and Old Age Security; cutbacks in federal transfer payments for health and education; privatization and cuts to the CBC, Air Canada, Via Rail, the Post Office and Social Housing Programs; reductions in federal support for regional economic development and the development of native communities; cuts to farm programs; cuts to the funding of social advocacy groups; cuts to foreign aid; the abandonment of a progressive tax system; the introduction of a goods and services tax; and the maintenance of high interest rates. All participants wore a green ribbon symbolizing their solidarity and hope.

As the train passed through Toronto on June 11,

Coalition members and approximately five hundred other protesters were at Union Station to greet it. Demonstrations included the Wilson vs. Wilson tribunal and a protest march through the station. The two campaigns came together as Toronto loaded its cookies on the Via 'budget-protest' train to Ottawa. These joined the box-loads of baked goods and messages from across the country that were being sent to Michael Wilson.

The finale of the "Get the Budget on Track" campaign took place on June 12, as eastbound and westbound trains met in Ottawa. Those travelling eastbound enjoyed a surprise reception from postal workers in Kingston, while waiting to transfer trains. Upon arrival in Ottawa, campaigners were greeted by native drummers from the Ottawa Friendship Centre and a reception committee including CLC president Shirley Carr, Bishop Remi DeRoo, Pro-Canada Network chair Tony Clarke, participants in the National Native Caravan, and representatives of participating organizations and the opposition parties. The events then moved to Parliament Hill where the Assembly of First Nations Rally was held. All was brought to a close with the singing of 'Get the Budget on Track', led by Nola Miller of Raging Grannies in Vancouver, who wrote the song while travelling across the country.

## FEDERAL UPDATE

### OCBCC's Recipe For Childcare

Serves: All Canadians

#### Ingredients:

- Tons of high quality
- 100% non-profit
- Subsidies for all who need them
- Guaranteed universal access
- Guaranteed spaces
- Flexible special needs services

Preparation Time: Overdue

Cooking Time: A.S.A.P.

#### Method:

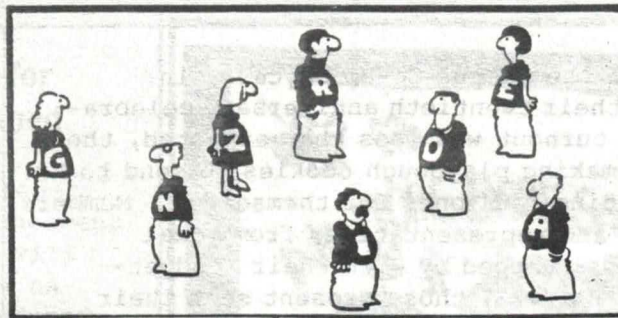
Mix all ingredients thoroughly in a large multicultural setting, throw in adequate government leadership and fund until all children are well cared for. Place in high priority for immediate action.

### Recipes From Oxford County

#### Canadian Child Care Cake

- 1 cup High Quality Non-Profit Child Care
- 1 cup Universally Accessible Child Care
- 1 cup Affordability

Mix well with a comprehensive Child Care Bill. Bake in an informed House of Commons. Let Cool. Ice cake with Canada's greatest resource: our children.



## ANGRY WORDS FROM CHILD CARE SUPPORTERS

During the Child Care Budget Bake-Off, June 3-12 the Ontario Coalition For Better Child Care found that people are very angry with Finance Minister Wilson and the Tory budget. Here are some of the messages that we collected for Mr. Wilson:

Dear Mr. Wilson:

*I am very upset at the games that the Federal government has played with the child care issue.*

*You know what the important issues are, and yet all we get are rhetoric and money-shifting.*

*Please work towards the implementation of a National non-profit, affordable, accessible day care system.*

*-Trisha Willis*

*I am a working mother who drives a half hour each way to ensure my son has quality day care. We can't all afford live-in nannies!*

*We need affordable, accessible daycare for all children.*

*-Charna Gord*

*Your recent budget confirms what we have all suspected - that the Tories don't care about the children of Canada! Brian's commitment in the 1984 election to*

Cont'd on p. 17 ...ANGRY WORDS...



**ANGRY WORDS**

Cont'd from page 16

*create a national system of child care was a lie. You and your government have reneged on this promise and we will continue to fight! No more bake sales Mr. Wilson!*

-Janet Rotman

*As a single mother working hard to raise my son, I am appalled that you could tamper with the fabric of our social programs - if the thread loosens, our children will be the ones who are left to patch the holes. Renew a financial commitment to childcare **NOW** and restore my faith in your government.*

-Concerned Parent

*Don't abandon our children in the name of 'restraint'. Children are our only legitimate 'investment' in the future.*

-Richard Barkley

**NEW PARENTAL LEAVE PLAN WILL LEAVE MANY PARENTS EMPTY-HANDED**

The federal government has now tabled its controversial plans to change the Unemployment Insurance Act in Canada. Included in those plans is the introduction of parental leave benefits to take effect next January which would provide either parent with 10 weeks of insured leave in addition to 15 weeks of maternity leave.

The change is seen as a way of bringing the Unemployment Insurance Act in line with the recent court decision in the Schachter case which found current policy to be discriminatory.

But more than half of the the labour force is covered only by provincial employment standards which do not yet allow for parental or paternity leave. In Ontario, for example, female employees are only allowed a 17 week maternity leave or adoptive parents a 15 week adoption leave, but no concept of parental leave exists.

Greg Sorbara, Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, is currently reviewing the Employment Standards Act with a view to bringing the provincial legislation in line with the new UI regulations, but he is slow off the mark. He could use a few letters urging him to do his part of the job!

**Federal Budget Brownies**

First, drastically cut the number of new child care spaces. Place cut number of new spaces in a Canadian Bowl with no comprehensive Child Care Strategy. Blend well with a crisis in subsidized spaces and overburdened municipalities. Bake 4 long years. Cool and ice with child care tax credits that will not build or expand a child care system. Garnish with diced Mulroney Baloney.

**Recipe to Hold a Bake Sale**

Ingredients:

1 child care centre - financially crumbling to meet their budget,  
2-4 concerned, very busy working parents, paying very high per diem rates for child care,  
4-5 undervalued, underpaid child care workers taking night courses,  
40-50 children learning through play,  
1 harried, overworked Ministry person.

Mix well, bake in a Tory government oven set on broken election promises, no child care bill and budget cuts for 4 long years. Let cool. Cut into squares and cover with Wilson rap. Sell to a public bombarded with continual fund raising.

Profit - Peanuts.

**Hamilton**

Hamilton now has 300 people on a waiting for day care who have no hope of getting a space until summer's end. The province will only fund 50% of the daycare spaces the region needs for 1989.

Susan Kolne, the day care supervisor at the Macphail Infant and Parent Co-op that operates out of Caledon Secondary School is worried about the mothers planning to return to school in September. "It's not going to be a very relaxing summer," she said. "I have no idea what's going to happen. It makes it very hard to plan a program."

*Lesley Russell*

**London**

The London Coalition for Better Child Care was invited by the regional branch of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to participate in a community consultation forum which dealt with child care and family involvement. The Coalition was pleased to be involved.

Over the summer the Coalition will concentrate on applying for funding to increase public awareness in the London district and to produce brochures, set up meetings and forums.

*Leslie Peat  
London Coalition for  
Better Day Care*

**Muskoka**

Even though daycare in Muskoka is still very young, the last few years have seen enormous progress in child care programming. In the last 18 months the District of Muskoka has been intensely involved in subsidizing daycare for lower income families. The Province has been supportive with their funding, and basically, any applicants who qualified for subsidy would get it without a wait.

This summer there are two more daycare centres slated for construction, one in Bracebridge and one in Gravenhurst. The two centres are going to accommodate about 82 children, and many of these were going to be supported through the subsidy program. Now, if the federal government and the provincial government both start pulling back on their subsidy commitments, it is felt that it will be difficult to fill the daycare centres. Families won't be able to afford the care.

The Ministry wrote to the District to say it would allocate \$106,005 out of the \$127,624 that had been committed for the creation of new subsidized daycare spaces. Since the "no waiting list" policy was tacitly approved by the ministry about 18 months ago, daycare programs have been booming, but because of the cutback the increase in spaces for 1989 will be held to only seven spaces.

*Debbie Bradley  
Muskoka Family Focus*

**Northwestern Ontario**

Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee held their annual forum at the end of March, with 60 day care parents, workers, administrators, and advocates participating in the two day session. As well as providing the informal opportunity for networking, areas covered included what is happening at the federal and provincial levels and how we can participate in these campaigns, an overview of the Ministry's Income Testing project and information on various models of day care which led to a discussion on the appropriate ways to provide training, development and resources to the Northwestern Ontario day care community. The annual business meeting and the Council elections also took place.

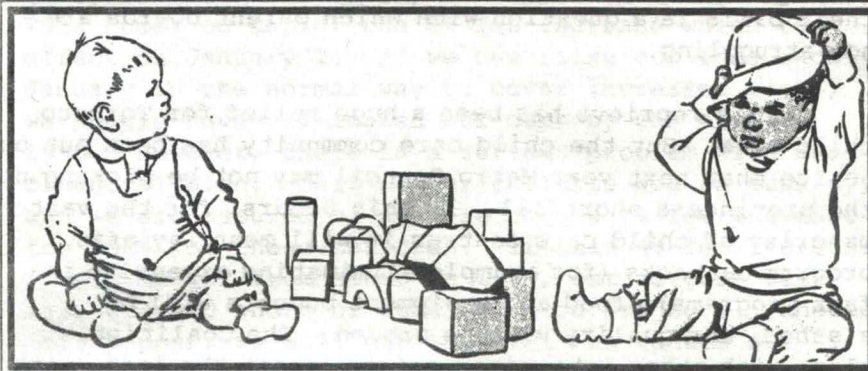
Cont'd on p. 19..LOCAL LINES..

## LOCAL LINES

Cont 'd from p. 18

Northwestern Ontario continues to experience a shortage of qualified early childhood education graduates and many centres are spending a great deal of time and money recruiting new employees. Confederation College is now offering courses in several communities, with the hope that in a few years graduates will fill vacancies. Despite staff shortages there has been growth in the number of child care centres in the Northwest, with Atikokan opening its new centre earlier this month. Congratulations to the parent board and community workers who worked so hard to achieve this.

### A CHILD CARE WEIGHTING ALLOWANCE FOR THE NORTH!



It has long been acknowledged that service delivery in the North is more expensive than in the South. The transitional grant has helped to cover some of these additional costs, but only to municipal day care centres. The Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee recognized the need for special funding for all day care centres in the North. The Ontario Women's Directorate is now funding what we call the "Weighting Factor Research Project."

Other Ministries have developed financial formulas for funding of service delivery in the North. These programs are being examined in terms of background, factors that are used to indicate need for additional funding, and how the actual formula for funding is implemented. Another portion of the research includes gathering examples of higher cost of service delivery in the North.

If you are interested in this project please contact Lee Angus at (807) 345-8803 or write to the NWORDCC at Box 144, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4V5. We anticipate that recommendations for a weighting factor formula for the funding of day care in the North will be ready in the fall of 1989.

## Peterborough

After a meeting with Sue Colley, Executive Director of the OCBC in the spring, a group of interested parents, child care workers and supporters, including a member of the Peterborough Labour Council, met to discuss the formation of a branch of the Coalition in Peterborough. After a second meeting we planned our first activity: a lobby of our local MPP, Peter Adams. Seven women and one child attended lobby sessions in May. We raised a number of concerns with our MPP: the need for increased Direct Operating Grants, the long waiting lists for licensed day care centres, the lack of infant care in the city and the need for start up money from the Province for new day care centres.

Our MPP assured us he was "sympathetic" to the issue of day care but did not want to commit to concrete promises of more money for the system. He subsequently passed our concerns on to John Sweeney.

The Peterborough group met again June 29 to discuss further actions: a letter to our federal MP, a communication with local Ministry of Community and Social Services office asking that the current review of local services include input from the Coalition, and an application for a grant from the Secretary of State Women's Program. For more information please contact Joan Sangster at (705) 743-8390 (h) or (705) 748-1752 (w).

## LOCAL LINES

### Waterloo Region

The Region of Waterloo has experienced an 8-week freeze on day care spaces which has left many parents on the waiting list. When a child left the system and a space became available, it remained empty.

The problem has been caused because the region pays \$118 per space per month, but the province will only pay \$100. After weeks of deadlock, regional and provincial officials are meeting on August 9 to negotiate a revised child care plan for the Region.

If the province does not increase funding, the situation will be very serious. Even sympathetic Councillors are saying that the Region will be getting out of the subsidy business, leaving 1500 children of the working poor out in the cold.

The Waterloo Coalition will be taking some well-deserved rest this summer but will be planning to talk to various regional and professional groups in the fall.

*Jane Mitchell  
Waterloo Region  
Coalition for Better  
Day Care*

### Toronto

These are tough times for the childcare community in Metro Toronto. Centres are struggling to provide quality care in a rollback, cut-back environment. The "one-in, one-out" policy for subsidized spaces, which has now been in place for almost a year, is causing tremendous financial hardship for all centres. The combinations of a freeze on final per diems and a freeze on new subsidized spaces is pushing centres to the brink of bankruptcy.

A critical vote at Metro Council on July 5 gave the Toronto child care community some breathing space. Council voted on a resolution to meet real budgeted per diem levels. For a number of centres, failure to have their full per diems met would have meant closure. Another significant percentage would have been forced to run up huge deficits. How the centres will continue to pay their bills is a question with which parent boards are now struggling.

This reprieve has been a huge relief for Toronto child care. But the child care community has been put on notice that next year Metro Council may not be picking up the province's shortfall. If this occurs, for the vast majority of child care centres it will mean lay offs, program cutbacks (for example eliminating expensive infant programs), food and equipment budgets will be slashed, and quality will be eroded. The Coalition, along with other interested groups, spent the last month lobbying extensively as part of the process of persuading the Council that meeting our base budgets is crucial to the survival of a quality system. Metro's reluctance to pay final per diems stems from real concerns about the amount of 100 per cent Metro dollars that are being poured in to prop up the child care system in Metro Toronto as the Province pays less and less of its share of the cost. The cost sharing formula of 50/30/20 is less and less the reality in Metro Toronto today.

The crisis for survival means a very frenzied level of activity and makes it difficult to look at long range strategic planning. As we lurch from crisis to crisis it is more and more important that we attempt to address some of the problems that underly the current crisis and begin to look for creative solutions to what is an increasingly fiscally restrained social climate.

The Steering Committee of the Metro Coalition will meet again on Wednesday, August 16, 1989 at 7:00 pm at the Metro Toronto Reference Library (on Yonge Street, just north of Bloor). Please join us if you have the interest and energy!

*Sue Hunter  
Day Care Coalition of Metropolitan Toronto*

*On the day that Metro Executive Council voted on the above situation (June 27, 1989), many people from the day care community were on hand to give deputations. Here is an excerpt:*

My name is Elizabeth Cowper, and I am a former treasurer, and current finance committee member, of Palmerston Community Day Care. We are a non-profit, parent-run centre, located in Palmerston Avenue Public School, and we have a capacity of sixty-two children aged from 2 1/2 to 9 years.

While Palmerston is proud to be a non-profit centre, we feel that the current situation is going rather too far. Faced with an accumulated deficit of approximately \$16,000 at the end of 1988, and with an operating deficit in the first quarter of 1989, we followed our auditor's advice, and passed an emergency fee increase of 9%, to take effect on July 1. This comes on top of the 8% fee increase which took effect on January 1. If we now raise our fees each January in the normal way to cover increased costs, we should have eliminated our debt by the end of 1990. However, there is a serious problem with our financial plan: half of our children are on subsidy, and we are assured of no more than a 4% fee increase for 1989 for these children. If this 4% fee increase is all we get from Metro in 1989, our revenue will fall \$14,000 short of what our plan projects. Should this happen, we will not only fail to reduce our accumulated deficit, we will see it increase significantly. Our bank manager has been very reasonable up to now, but in his place I would not be very sympathetic to a request for a greatly increased line of credit from a day care centre.

We have cut our operating budget to the bone: any further cuts will seriously reduce the quality of care we provide to the children.

The financial squeeze we are in has had visible effects on the morale at our centre. It is difficult for the staff to be creative in their programming when there is no money to spend on new supplies. I don't need to describe the effect on a supervisor who knows that there is not enough money in the bank for her to cash her pay cheque. The fee-paying parents justifiably resent paying more out of their own pockets than Metro is paying for the subsidized spaces. The subsidized parents feel badly that their children's care is not being appropriately paid for, but are completely powerless to do anything about it. Just as financial hardship increases the stress and discord in a family, so too it poisons the atmosphere in a day care centre. We on the finance committee also feel completely powerless!

Windsor

Hello fellow members of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. The Windsor Coalition has been busy these past few months.

In April we hosted our 2nd Annual Bonfire as a social and informational event at Ojibway Park. It was a successful event with lots of marshmallows, hot dogs and drawing paper on hand for the young and the young at heart. An informal campfire next to the nature centre attracted families and the local media.

We lobbied local politicians such as Bill Wrye (L), Mike Ray (L), Dave Cooke (NDP) and Remo Mancini (L). Dave Cooke was the most supportive member of the opposition and he was very knowledgeable about the current day care status.

The local Children's Services Council has prepared a study of local Child Care Services in Windsor and Essex County. On the Municipal side, a new report entitled "Child Care Choices - A Municipal Master Plan" is currently before City Council. The local Coalition took part as one of fifteen delegations that spoke to municipal council about the report. We hope to have more news as the Council decides on the recommendations for day care.

Sylvia Ceccomancini

## Oxford

Our Coalition decided to hold a "Bake Sale" on Sunday June 4, 1989 at the Canadian Auto Workers Hall in Woodstock. In preparation for this we gathered up old, dried up ingredients that one would normally use in baking cookies. We sent out invitations to our MPP, MP, Mayor and County Warden to join us for our event. Because it was such short notice none of the above were able to attend. Our mayor was represented by one of our aldermen who stayed for the event and even helped stuff some envelopes. I think we have found an ally with her. Our MP could not make it but he did take a package up to Mr. Wilson. That was a start in the right direction for him. Our MPP was out of town but did respond to our invitation and thought our demonstration was a very unique way to get the attention of the Federal Government.

We had a small but determined turnout at our event. There was representation from parents, teachers, CUPE members, a member from OPSEU and one of our aldermen. The local newspaper came and we had a written statement for them. We were impressed with the coverage that we did receive

*Kathy Bowman, Cathy Austin  
Oxford Coalition for  
Better Child Care*

## Northwest Territories

In the North West Territories, it has been a remarkable year for child care! Four Arctic college students have graduated from the first Early Childhood Education program; the territorial government has introduced a Child Care Act which sets up standards and licencing and provides user subsidies, non-capital start up money and operational grants, and the Child Care Initiative Fund has begun to play what could be a critical role in developing services by financing a manual called "Starting a day care in Inuit communities".

The bake off produced a mail bag of colourful envelopes containing the wrappers of baking ingredients and the message to Michael Wilson: Day Care without dough... Is like baking without batter!

## Yukon

In the Yukon, the NDP government have introduced a child care strategy and budget. Activists had a lot of input into the strategy and its implementation which will shortly result in a new Child Care Act and regulations.

Advocates have had discussions with NDP MP Audrey McLaughlin (federal NDP leadership candidate) to discuss child care issues.

## British Columbia

In BC, advocates are still reeling from the almost miraculous announcements made recently by the social credit government. The government has announced its commitment to workplace day care, and has raised the income level for subsidy eligibility, for the first time in ten years! This from a government renowned for its insensitivity to child care issues. In addition, start up grants of up to \$350,000 will be introduced.

## Alberta

The status of child care in Alberta has varied somewhat over the past twelve months, and activists in that province are "cautiously optimistic" that positive change may occur.

Significant events throughout the year included: Department of "Family and Social Services" created and shuffled from Ministry of Social Services to Education and back to Social Services; Throne speech and budget resulted in a 20% increase in subsidy rate for day-care users, and the allocation of 1.6 million dollars to

## ACROSS CANADA

"enhance child care training". Also an additional \$300,000 for monitoring day care.

The Alberta Association for Young Children will be holding its annual conference in Calgary from October 20 to 22. The main event will be a controversial debate on infant care. The annual conference usually attracts 600-700 participants from around the province, and will focus on the continued difficulty in attracting and retaining qualified staff (a common problem).

### Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Child Care Association has submitted an application for funding under the Child Care Initiatives Fund to provide an information and resource centre for the province.

There is a "wait and see" attitude since the demise of the federal strategy and recent budget. The province has not opened any new spaces, blaming federal financial constraints, and there seems to be a lot of confusion over the issue of private (for-profit) centres being allowed funding under the new provincial (Child Care) act.

The annual provincial Child Care Association Conference will be held in Prince Albert in October. For the first time, the conference will focus on advocacy issues as well as professional development.

### Manitoba

The Manitoba government has now tabled its report from the recent Task Force on Child Care. Recommendations include a completely separate, independent aboriginal child care system; and a revision of Manitoba child care standards with a view to improving quality. Call Kathy Yurkowsky at (204) 945-4173 for more information.

So far, Manitoba's minority government has not eroded any previous child care advances. However, a salary enhancement grant has been allowed to profit operators providing that they submit audited payrolls, meet the current yearly non-profit salary rates and prepare yearly staff upgrading reports.

The Manitoba Child Care Association has received \$1 million to set up a consulting service for parent board development (among other issues).

### New Brunswick

A quiet interlude in New Brunswick during the last five months. The New Brunswick Day Care Association is continuing to sponsor training for approximately 350 day care staff in the fall. Also a new newsletter/journal is being published (first issue July, 1989) directed at the child care community. More information can be obtained by calling the Association at (506) 450-3294.

cont'd p.31.....



## Quebec

Cont'd from p. 1...

took to the streets in Montreal on May 16th to protest the new funding mechanisms for group and family day care announced that day by Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Quebec's Minister responsible for child care. Singing made-for-the-occasion songs, the demonstrators walked from Lafontaine Park to the Montreal offices of Premier Bourassa where hundreds of stuffed toys, heaped on the office's steps, became a symbol of the crowd's rejection of the new policy.

In November 1988, the Minister released a policy paper announcing that Quebec would spend some \$148 on million child care and would develop 8,600 new spaces for which it would cover 75% of capital and start-up costs. However, on May 16, these plans were downgraded. Quebec will now only spend \$132 million (an increase of 27% over last year) and create 6,200 spaces while picking up only 50% of capital and start-up costs. This reduced commitment is blamed on the fact that the federal government has reneged on its promise to spend \$4

billion on child care in the next seven years. Of the \$132 million expected spending, \$91 million will come from provincial coffers while \$41 million will be covered by the federal government through the Canada Assistance Plan.

The coalition of child care groups had been asking that the direct operating grant of \$4.50 per licensed preschool space in the non-profit sector be immediately doubled and that the working conditions of child care workers be improved. The average day care wage in Quebec is \$8.60 an hour and the average daily fee for a preschooler is \$15.

The demonstration had been organized by a coalition of the major provincial child care groups: the Coalition of Non-profit Preschool Day Care Centres (Concertation interregionale des garderies du Quebec), the Association of Family Day Care Agencies, the Association of School-age Day Care Centres and the two unions representing day care workers, the C.S.N. and the C.E.Q.

Some 300 of the province's 545 non-profit day care centres were closed for the day following a decision voted on by each centre's Board. Parents of some 15,000 children had to find alternate care arrangements so that staff could take part in the demonstration.

The Coalition is considering other pressure tactics including other demonstrations, massive resignations of day care centre boards, and encouraging larger centres to split up into two centres so as to access better grants available to the smaller centres. This would create an administrative nightmare for the Province.

Lise Corbeil-Vincent







## Lobby Report!

Lobby '89 is coming to a close. The goal of this lobby was to have a group of constituents in every provincial riding meet with their M.P.P.s to discuss child care issues. The focus of these discussions was to persuade the provincial government to put more resources into the child care system and to reject support for any federal legislation similar to Bill C-144. The six recommendations put forth by the OCBCC were:

1. Increased funding to cover all children on waiting lists for subsidy in Ontario.
2. Increase the amount of Direct Operating Grant to 30% of operating costs to raise wages and reduce fees.
3. Strictly enforce the Day Nurseries Act as the first step to improve the quality of child care in Ontario.
4. Ban any new purchase-of-service agreements to commercial child care operators.
5. Introduce a plan to phase out all public funding of commercial child care, both subsidies and Direct Operating Grants.
6. Oppose any attempts by the federal government to introduce legislation similar to the Canada Child Care Act.

Originally scheduled to take place between April 17 and 28, the lobby was later extended into May as many co-ordinators were finding it difficult to obtain appointments with politicians during the original two week period.

Initially, lobby kits prepared by the Coalition, were sent to potential coordinators in every provincial riding. From these a total of 107 lobby teams were organized. As of mid-May, approximately 73 lobbies had taken place; 23 teams were still awaiting response from their MPP's office to confirm meeting dates. As

well, in five ridings, letters expressing child care concerns were sent to MPPs in lieu of meetings.

### MPP Responses

Overall, MPP response was positive. Many agreed, in theory, to the recommendations set forth by the Coalition but stated that in terms of public support they would have to stick to party policy.

The three parties rated as follows:

**\*New Democratic**  
Party members were generally well informed about child care issues and supported all six recommendations.

**\*Liberal Party** members varied in their support - while some agreed with all of the recommendations, others stated that they generally supported child care but without referring specifically to any of the recommendations. Most withheld any commitment to financial support, saying that funding would be contingent on the federal budget;

**\*Members of the Progressive Conservative** Party were considerably less informed about the child care issues. Most were unable to support our non-profit stance, as the believed the profit centres fulfilled a necessary need.

Cont'd on p. 26...Lessons....

**Lessons of the Lobby Experience**

cont'd from page 25...

The lobbies were an educational experience for all involved: lobby teams gained invaluable advocacy skills; MPPs became better informed regarding the state of child care both within their own constituencies and in the province as a whole, and regarding the role of the OCBCC.

The initial meetings with MPPs provided a great opportunity for constituents to voice child care concerns, using specific local examples. A positive rapport with provincial politicians was established, and many lobby teams were invited back to share more information with both provincial and federal members of parliament.

As well, alternative forms of distributing information, such as forums, video presentations and panel discussions were suggested. Some lobby teams are considering establishing local coalition branches as a result of their participation in this event.

To wrap up the event the Coalition organized "Child Care Challenge Awards". Lobby teams reported back on the success of their lobby and nominated their MPPs accord-

ingly. Few nominations were received. Some lobby teams were dismayed by their MPP's response to child care issues but did not want to jeopardize any rapport they had so recently established. Other teams, felt their MPP's commitment to child care did not yet merit the positive awards.

At the Child Care Challenge Awards ceremony, held May 28 at Toronto City Hall Members' Lounge, the following Awards were presented:

"Best Friend of Child Care Award" for the Liberal Party went to Linda LeBourdais for her support in Etobicoke.

"Best Friend of Child Care" for the NDP went to Karl Morin-Strom of Sault-Ste. Marie with special mention for Howie Hampton of Rainy River.

The "Going To Bat For Child Care Award" was presented to Bob Rae for his perseverance on behalf of the York Child Care Centres.

The "Leave It To Beaver Award" went to David Smith MPP for Lambton based on such comments as "Children should be looked after in the home...his wife raised their children at home...."

There were no other politicians actually nominated for the other awards. Honourable mention, however, was given to Chaviva Hosek, Sean Conway and Tony Lupusella who came close to being nominated for the "Slippery Sneaker Award"; and to David Fleet, Joan Smith and Richard Patten who were considered for the "Go Fly A Kite Award".

Lobby teams to receive awards included, the London team for the "Promises, Promises Award" for their lobby of David Peterson; the Oakwood riding team for the "Hang In There Award" for their persistence in getting a meeting with Chaviva Hosek; and the Perth team for the "Power in Numbers Award" for having ten people organized to lobby Hugh Edighoffer.

In addition, Christine Brooks of Ottawa and Jane Mitchell of Waterloo were presented with a "Child Care Dedication Award" for their outstanding organizational dedication.

As an offshoot of the lobby, meetings were held with both the Toronto and Ottawa Liberal provincial caucuses. We received outstanding support from Metro Toronto Municipal Council who voted to participate in the lobby. Some further achievements included

Cont'd on page 27..LOBBY '89...

## LOBBY '89

Cont'd from p. 25...

- meetings with federal members of parliament in at least five ridings.
- letters from MPP's to John Sweeney and Robert Nixon outlining support for OCBCC recommendations.
- video presentations illustrating the state of child care are being organized in the Ottawa area.
- a public forum on child care is being held in the Kingston area.

## And...

The Coalition also learned a great deal. Organizing such an event involves many months of preparation. Some of the problems we encountered were a result of the limited time frame we had allowed. To be most effective, the lobby should have taken place during the Fall when preparations for the provincial budget occur. Our April date was somewhat late.

We recognized a need for widespread advertising of the event for greater participation. As well, some lobby participants required more education than lobby kits could provide.

One final problem was that of matching our members to their ridings, especially when some people are unfamiliar with these divisions.

For the first province-wide lobby, organized by the Coalition, a superb effort was made by all those involved. Having identified key problems, the next such lobby can only be better.

**ATTENTION ALL LOBBY PARTICIPANTS!**

After all is said and done with Lobby '89, the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care would like to sincerely thank everyone across the province who participated in the lobby. Even though this event was organized on a rather grand scale, every single person who agreed to become involved was the key to its success. We hope that these new friends and contacts that we have found will continue to be involved in the fight for accessible, affordable, quality child care as we all realize that the fight has merely just begun.

Once again, thank you to all lobby co-ordinators who considered the project important enough to take the time to organize their ridings, and to all the concerned parents, staff and other members of the community who made it possible for them to organize successfully.

## CHILD CARE IN ONTARIO: THE FACTS

### CHILD POPULATION

There are 756,800 children under 6 in Ontario  
 There are 608,600 children 6-10 in Ontario  
 Total Children 0-10: 1,365,400 (*Stats Can 1986 Census*)

### CHILD CARE SPACES

There are only 92,531 licensed group day care spaces and only 9,013 supervised private home day care spaces.

### PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN LICENSED CARE:

This means that the total of 101,544 licensed child care spaces will only accommodate 7.5% of Ontario's children.

### DAY CARE CENTRES:

There are 2,525 licensed day care facilities:  
 Of these, 690 spaces are operated by Indian Bands. (*Ministry of Community and Social Services*)

### Public: Non-profit: Commercial:

Centres	Spaces
184	8,581
1,416	45,073
802	33,448

### PRIVATE HOME DAY CARE:

There are 4,500 approved private day care homes in 88 private home day care agencies with 9,013 spaces. (*Private Home Day Care Association*)

### SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE:

There are 41,000 children receiving child care subsidy. This means that 40% of children in licensed child care receive a subsidy. (*Ministry of Community and Social Services*)

### FEES:

Fees on Ontario range between \$2,500 and \$12,500 depending on the hours of the program and the ages of the children. The Province of Ontario uses the figure of \$4,000 to calculate its average cost for all child care in the province. (*Ministry of Community and Social Services*)

### WOMEN IN THE ONTARIO WORKFORCE:

In 1988, women accounted for 45% of the workforce. The participation rate for women in Ontario in 1988 was 61%. The participation rate for women between 25-44 (childbearing/rearing years) was 79.4%.

### Participation Rates for Women in the Ontario Labour Force by Presence of Children, by Age of Youngest Child, 1975, 1984 and 1988.\*

Age of Youngest Child	Participation Rate		
	1975	1984	1988
Under 3	36.6	52.5	60.5
3-5 years	46.2	63.4	79.1
Under 6 years	40.6	59.1	-
Under 16 years	48.0	64.6	71.5

\* (Statistics Canada, Census, 1986).

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the London Coalition For Better Day Care we give a positive review of LOBBY '89. Our local coalition was strengthened from the event as we all joined together and we shared resources to make it a successful campaign. Many of our members lobbied for the first time, and experienced the thrill. The direction given from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care was an instrumental part of this effort, and an effective networking tool.

As a local coalition, all of our members have not had involvement at a provincial level in the past. Therefore events that bring local coalitions closer together help keep up our child care spirits. I would appreciate consideration given by the executive to hold our council meetings in various local coalition settings. Please let us know how we can join in at the provincial level again soon.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rooms-Leinweber  
Co-ordinator  
London Coalition for Better Day Care

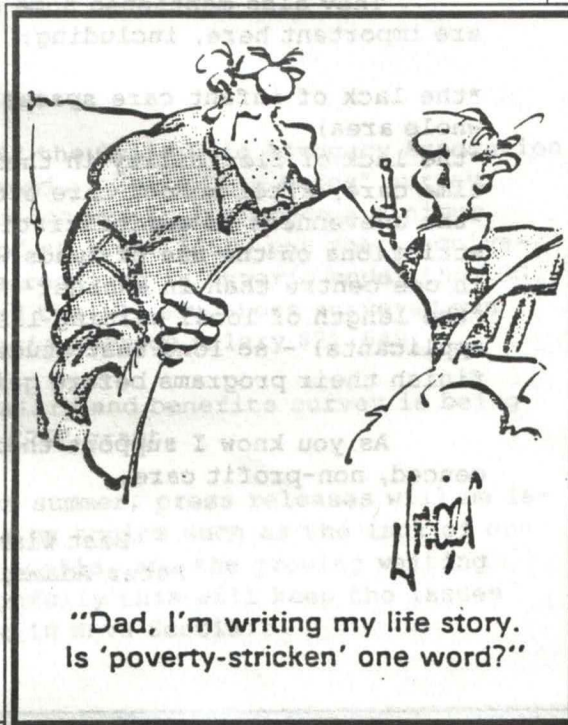
**The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care also receives copies of letters written to and from others. Here's this month's sampling:**

Letter to Janine Woehl from Andy Brandt, Leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party and M.P.P. for Sarnia, dated May 18, 1989:

Dear Ms. Woehl:

Thanks very much to both you and your colleagues, for meeting with me in my constituency office recently to discuss the issue of child care in our province.

As you are aware, the federal Bill C-144 died on the Order Paper and  
Cont'd on p. 30..Letters



## Discussion Paper on Changes to Employment Standards Act

by The Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

The Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues has now completed its extensive study of the current Employment Standards Act. It has produced a draft discussion paper with 79 recommendations for changes to be embodied in a new piece of legislation which would set out a series of principles and get rid of many of the regulations which currently undercut many of the Standards contained within the Act.

Many of the proposed changes would affect child care staff. The Council recommends that "dependent contractors" such as private home day care providers be expressly defined and included as "employees" within the Employment Standards Act. This would give private home providers the opportunity to receive minimum wage and other job protections and benefits. In addition, there are proposals for a higher minimum wage, longer statutory vacations, elimination of discrimination against part-time, seasonal, casual and non-regular workers, making unionization easier and reducing the hours of work before overtime pay is required to 8

Cont'd on p. 30..ESA...

**ESA...**

Cont'd from p. 29...  
hours per day and 40  
hours per week.

The Council also demands new minimum standards with respect to childcare and family responsibilities. These include significant reform of the pregnancy leave standard (up to 18 weeks), new provisions for childcare leave and adoption leave (up to 35 weeks) bereavement leave (minimum 3 days), and leave for personal needs (up to 10 days per year). The NDP has introduced a proposed amendment in the Legislature to deal with parental leave provisions of the act. We will see in the Fall how the Minister of Labour deals with this initiative!



**Investing in Families  
With Children**

Seven national groups concerned with the welfare of Canada's children have prepared a booklet entitled *A Choice of Futures: Canada's Commitment to Its Children* and a se-

**LETTERS**

cont'd from p. 29...

has not been introduced again. I am told by my federal colleagues, however, that there will be a new Child Care policy introduced at some point in the current mandate of the federal government. I look forward to the introduction of the bill and hope that it will alleviate some of the very valid concerns we discussed.

Rest assured that adequate daycare for families in Ontario remains uppermost in my mind and I will continue to monitor the developments of any policies brought forward.

Sincerely,

Andy Brandt, M.P.P.

*Letter to John Sweeney, Minister of Community and Social Services, from Peter Adams, M.P.P. for Peterborough.*

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

I had a meeting with local representatives of the Coalition for Better Childcare on Friday, May 12, 1989.

They stressed the importance of increasing the direct grants and the start up grants. I hope that we will have a chance to discuss this before or after the Coalition's visit to Queen's Park.

They also mentioned some other issues which are important here, including:

- \*the lack of infant care spaces (only 65 in the whole area)
- \*the lack of flexibility in their services - part-time care, after school care etc.
- \*the unevenness of administration of DOG's - restrictions on the use of funds which are different in one centre than in another
- \*the length of local waiting lists (including rural applicants) - so long that student parents may finish their programs before gaining a place.

As you know I support their emphasis on licensed, non-profit care.

Best wishes,  
Peter Adams, M.P.P.

*Letter to Michael Wilson from Central Student Association, Guelph University:*

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Central Students Association of the University of Guelph, which represents 10,000 students. We are concerned about the lack of new funding for childcare. The demise of Bill C-144 is strongly supported by our organization because we feel it was insufficient for the needs of students with children. We need regular funding to expand and develop Canada's child care system.

People with children who attend post-secondary education institutions have special needs which are not being addressed at this time. It is not enough to quash a bad bill. We need you to replace Bill C-144 with a solution to the child care problem. On June 4, 1989 the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care is demonstrating their opposition to your budget. The Central Students Association supports their efforts to lobby for better child care.

"No more bake sales for child care, Mr. Wilson!"

Sincerely,

Nancy MacDonald  
VP External

ries of pamphlets designed to deal with the problem of child poverty and family well-being. The publication states that Canadian society has "long recognized the importance of [parental contributions]" to society and lists the achievements of Canadian programs in the past half-century in support of families with children. Included in these achievements are: the Unemployment Insurance Act, a federal family allowance, the **National Housing Act**, federal-provincial cost-sharing, **Canada Health Act** pension plans, refundable child tax credit, etc.

The group points out, however, that "at the same time, these policies and programs have not consistently kept pace with changes in economic circumstances, family structures, and the role of families in society."

continued from p. 23....

## ACROSS CANADA

### Nova Scotia

In August, 1988 the Child Care Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia released a "Child Care Wages" survey. The final recommendation was to introduce a minimum salary enhancement of at least \$4500 per year, equivalent to the increase received in Ontario under the DOG. The average salary of the 173 educators surveyed was \$12,927; the director's average salary \$21,649.

An expanded salary and benefits survey is being carried out under a CCIF grant.

Throughout the summer, press releases will be issued every two weeks on topics such as the lack of on-campus care in Nova Scotia, and the growing waiting lists for care. Hopefully this will keep the issues alive for the public in Nova Scotia.

### Newfoundland

The newly-elected Liberal government have committed to some improvement in child care services. Presently, no licenced care exists for under-two's, and there is a lack of training legislation. (Certification is available through commercial schools). Hopefully, things can only get better in Newfoundland!

September 6-9, 1989  
CAW Women's Conference  
"Women and the Economy"  
CAW Family Education  
Centre  
(416) 495-6548

September 28-29, 1989  
Ottawa-Carleton Day Care  
Initiatives Group  
"Ontario: A Caring  
Society, Current Needs  
and Future Trends in  
Informal Child Care"  
Talisman Hotel, 1376  
Carling Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
For details call: Elaine  
Hall, Orleans Preschool  
Resource Centre, Box  
102, Cumberland, Ontario  
K0A 1S0, (613) 833-2097.

October 13-15, 1989  
Saskatchewan Child Care  
Conference  
"A Global Vision"  
Prince Albert, Sas-  
katchewan  
Contact: (306) 763-0988  
for details and program.

October 27-29, 1989  
Association des services  
de garde en milieu sco-  
laire du Quebec  
"Grandir Avec Toi"  
Universite de Montreal  
For details and regis-  
tration: A.S.G.E.M.S.Q.  
Conference, 1600  
Bourassa, Longueuil,  
Quebec J4J 3A4, (514)  
646-2753.

November 8-9, 1989  
Ontario Coalition for  
Better Child Care  
November 8: Fall Policy  
Forum, Skyline Hotel,  
Toronto  
November 9: Annual  
Lobby, Ontario Room,  
Macdonald Block, Queen's  
Park, Ontario. 9-12  
noon.

## Valencia Daycare in North York Ordered to Close

At last the government is starting to act against commercial day care centres in violation of the regulations of the Day Nurseries Act. Valencia Day Care in North York was closed in June as a result of continual infractions and hopefully this is the first in a long string of closures of the many inadequate and dangerous programs which threaten the care of our children.

The provincial government maintained that they were only able to close four day care centres in the last several years because of the legal and administrative difficulties. Apparently, this is because lawyers at the Ministry claimed that it was the only grounds for closure was the "actual threat to the immediate health and safety of children" which was very difficult to prove. With the release of the Report on Licensing Enforcement, we'll probably be seeing some more enlightened lawyers around the Child Care Branch!

## The Day Care Play

The Ontario Arts Council has funded a play sponsored by CUPE 2204 in their "Artist in the Workplace" Program. CUPE contracted with Arthur Milner, a noted Ottawa playwright to write a fictional play based on the 1978 day care strike in Ottawa involving CUPE 2204 and the major commercial operator in the region at that time. The play is primarily a dialogue between five participants in the strike, reminiscing ten years later about the lessons that they have learned since the strike. Readings are taking place in July and it is hoped that CUPE 2204 will obtain more funding for a professional production in the Fall.

## Attention all E.C.E. Colleagues!

Lynn Wilson and Joyce Gee are currently working on a federal Child Care Initiatives Project that is examining the need for extended hour child care for those who work shifts. The project co-ordinators are requesting help from anyone who has information about extended hour centres, especially those in hospital settings, in their communities. Any literature, newspaper clippings, statistical information, or contact people would be of great value to the project.

If you have any information or resources which might help with this project please contact Lynn Wilson or Joyce Gee, Extended Hour Project, George Brown College, Kensington Campus, 21 Nassau Street, Toronto, Ont., M5T 2T9.



## Fundraising Tip For Day Care Centres!

The Coalition has heard that Canadian Tire money drives offer good return for minimal labour. Almost everyone has Canadian Tire money hanging around that will never get used. Parents, staff and children can collect Canadian Tire money from friends, relatives and neighbours and can use this currency to purchase almost anything in Canadian Tire from toys to hardware to appliances. Good luck!

## Early Childhood Observation: Theory / Methods / Implementation

The Teachers College Press of Columbia University has published a catalogue of Multimedia Training Packages and Early Childhood Education resources. Topics range from early childhood environments to observing and recording the behaviour of young children. The catalogue and materials are available from OISE Press-Guidance Centre, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ont., M5S 1V5. Tel: (416) 926-4723.

## Effective Proposal Development

This publication is a New Resource For Community Programs. The manual provides guidance in project development and proposal writing. Topics include: developing a project idea; researching and contacting funders; conducting a needs assessment; preparing program goals; activities; budget; evaluation plan; effective proposal style and format, and follow-up with funders.

A copy of the manual can be obtained by calling Sandra Miners, Ministry of Skills Development, (416) 963-2708.

## Ontario Skills Program

This is a grant program for organizations with less than 200 employees. It provides up to 80% of direct training costs.

This program can be accessed through Ontario Skills Development Offices in community colleges. These offices also offer skills consulting. A maximum of

November 13-16, 1989  
The Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse  
"Healthy and Supportive Communities: From Commitment To Action"  
Prevention Congress IV  
Keynote speakers: Stephen Lewis, Lois Wilson  
Toronto, Ontario  
For more information call (416) 928-1838 or 1-800-263-2846.

Trent University Women's Studies Conference  
"Creating a Feminist Agenda For the 1990's"  
June 15, 16, 17, 1990.  
Trent University, Peterborough  
Proposals for conference participants, panels, workshops, etc. can be submitted to the address below. Abstracts for papers are required by August 1, 1989.  
Women's Studies Conference  
c/o EC, Trent University,  
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8, (705) 748-1430.

\$60,000 over 2 years is available to any one organization.

Training opportunities include business training, technical training, human resources training. Training may also be done in-house, through educational institutions or through third party trainers.

**STOP PRESS****Defence For Children International Canada**

**Day Care Enforcement Misses Deadline  
New Target set for October**

The following article is reprinted from *Community Action, A News Journal for People in Community Service Organizations*, July 1989. Please take the time to contact your provincial politician and express your concerns about this delay.

The review of enforcement procedures under Ontario's Day Nursery Regulations has missed the deadline set by the Minister of Community and Social Services, John Sweeney. October, 1989 is now the target month for the report. A

special task force was ordered by the Minister in February, 1989 under pressure of newspaper reports on problems regarding compliance with regulations.

Meetings have been held with Ministry staff who monitor compliance and with operators of child care centres. The delays arose almost at the beginning when the task force was set up without terms of reference. Problems in assembling appropriate staff for the project caused other delays. A lawyer seconded from the Ministry of the Attorney General was recalled leaving the task force without a legal advisor. One major problem involves the task force's overlapping with a project group working on a new Child Care Act to replace the Day Nursery Act.

Staff at MCSS considers October the earliest possible date for a report.

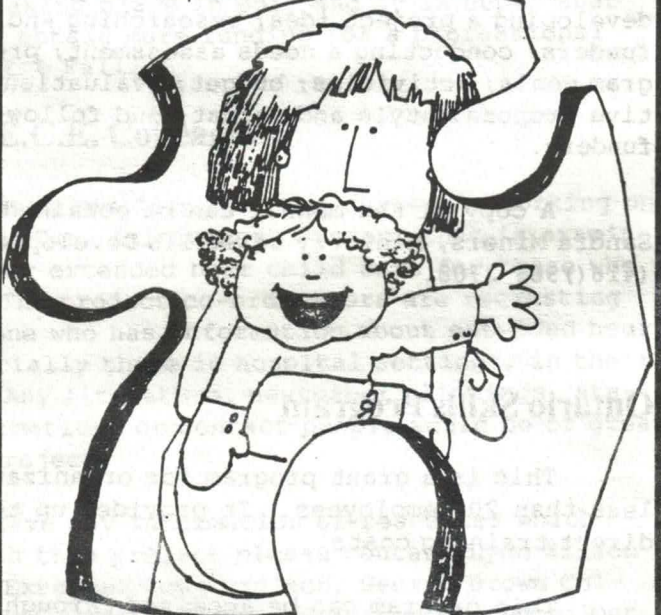
Defence For Children International (DCI) was born in 1979, out of enthusiasm generated by the International Year of the Child. Its goal is to protect and promote the rights of all children through concerted international organization. DCI is an independent non-governmental organization.

DCI serves as a catalyst by getting factual information about violations of children's rights and putting it to use. It publishes information on all aspects of children's rights, works for improved international standards in the children's rights sphere, and investigates global problems, such as sexual exploitation of children and children in prison, which are inadequately documented internationally.

As of January 26, 1989 a Canadian section of DCI has been formed. The Canadian section will support the work of the international movement as well as seeking ways of alleviating conditions that contribute to situations of deprivation, repression, inequality, powerlessness and dependency in which children find themselves.

For more information about the Canadian section of DCI, please contact Gladys Rothman, Coordinator of Prevention Services, George Hull Centre, 600 East Mall, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 4B1, (416) 622 8833.

Good Daycare:



Part of the big picture

*The Challenge will gladly offer space to child care organizations to advertise employment opportunities. Please contact the OCBCC office for copy deadlines and publication dates.*

**DAY CARE DIRECTOR**

La Garderie Educative de Kingston is offering an excellent opportunity for a bilingual early childhood educator with great supervisory and people skills.

This key position requires an Early Childhood Education diploma plus a minimum of 2 years related supervisory experience. In addition you must have a good working knowledge of both English and French. This position commences in mid-August.

Qualified candidates are invited to send resume to:

La Garderie Educative  
85 Grosvenor Court  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7M 3C3

**DAY CARE CENTRE TEACHER**

The Corporation of the Town of Geraldton  
(\$21,500-\$24,500 - under review)

Responsibilities include participation with children in planned and routine activities and providing a stimulating and nurturing environment which creates independence and individualism. The Geraldton Day Care Centre/La garderie de Geraldton is an integrated centre licensed for 49 children which also provides rural resource and toy library services to the community.

Qualifications: The preferred candidate will possess skills in working with parents and children as well as an Early Childhood Education college diploma or AECEO equivalency. Bilingualism while not a required qualification would be an asset.

Applications to: Miss Diane Sarrazin, Supervisor,  
Geraldton Day Care Centre/La Garderie de Geraldton, P.O.  
Box 70, Geraldton, Ont. P0T 1M0

**Canadian Day Care  
Advocacy Association**

The Steering Committee of the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association met in Ottawa from June 15 to 17. Advocates from across the country met to evaluate the activities of the past year, and to brainstorm an action plan for the coming year.

In anticipation of leadership conventions for both opposition parties, the CDCAA is firming up its policies. In the fall of 1990, a policy forum will be held with other national groups to focus on social policy for family and health. The CDCAA approved in principle to participate in this national symposium which should provide important contact with other groups to formulate solid national policy on child care and other related social issues. (Family leave provisions, health, education, etc.).

Other developments for the coming year involve a mobilization of the "grass roots" child care activists. Parent waiting lists will be monitored and local, provincial/territorial and national links will be strengthened.

Other policy and legislation at the federal level will be closely monitored by the national office to allow advocates time to respond should the federal government decide on an initiative.

Fiona Knight



**JOIN THE COALITION TODAY!**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**

<b>Provincial Organizations:</b>	
\$20.00	Under 20 Members
30.00	21-50 Members
50.00	51-200 Members
100.00	210-1000 Members
250.00	1001-5000 Members
350.00	Over 5000 Members
\$20.00	Local Child Care Coalition Groups
\$10.00	Individuals
\$20.00	Local Day Care Centres, Other Organizations or Institutions.

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) \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations/Day Care Centre: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Provincial Riding: \_\_\_\_\_

I only want a subscription to the Newsletter