

Challenge



NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER DAYCARE

GOVERNMENT PLAN FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED!

The federal government's child care strategy is a disaster. The big winners in this charade are commercial child care operators, affluent taxpayers and Finance Department bureaucrats who wanted to put a lid on federal government spending for child care. The losers are Canada's children and families, especially mothers in the labour force looking for accessible and dependable child care.

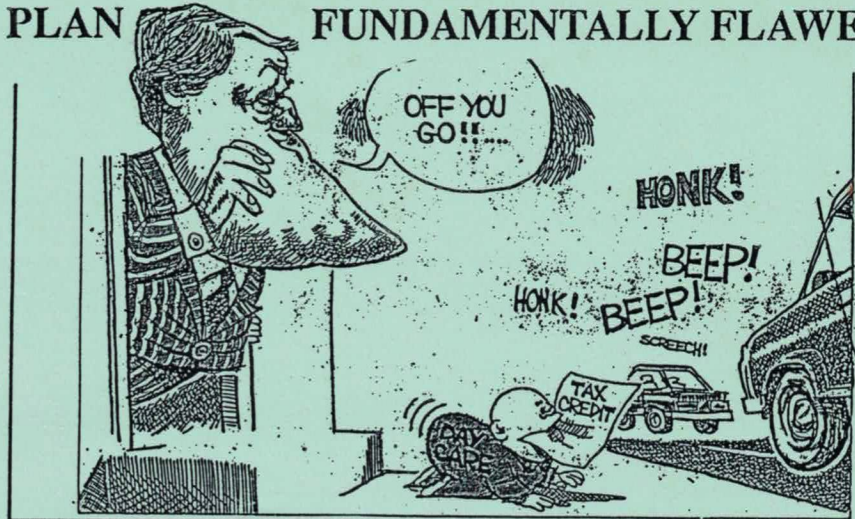
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE MULRONEY GOVERNMENT'S PLAN?

* The federal government has not put forward a plan to build an accessible, affordable, high-quality, non-profit child care system in Canada. Instead they have offered a proposal which is less generous than the recommendations of the Special Committee on Child Care and worse than sticking with the current cost-sharing arrangements under the Canada Assistance Plan.

* Again, money is directed towards individuals through the tax system - \$2.3 billion of new tax breaks and \$1.2 billion of existing tax breaks to make \$3.5 billion over 7 years. The Child Care Expense Deduction directs most assistance to high income earners; the enhanced child tax credit is too small to provide a new child care situation for anyone.

* For the first time, the new Child Care Act will provide operating grants to commercial child care and will act as an incentive for a massive increase in lower quality child care. Providing sustaining funding to business operators is a precedent-setting action and it will allow for the rapid expansion of American and Canadian corporate child care.

* The new Child Care Act will provide up to \$3 billion (\$428 million per year) for low income subsidies, operating



grants, capital grants - whatever the provinces want. Sounds like a lot of money, eh! Wrong! The New Child Care Act will replace the day care provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan. CAP is open-ended. Everytime the provinces spend a dollar on eligible child care costs, the federal govern-

ment matches that dollar. Because the price of child care is rising rapidly, it has been estimated that the new spending limits will not even allow the number of subsidies to double over the next seven years. Beyond that level, there will no federal cost-sharing dollars. Finance Department bureaucrats are

laughing all the way to the bank! CAP is not a good vehicle for funding child care. But it could have funded a much larger expansion than the new scheme over the next seven years. We would be better sticking with what we've got than switching to Mulroney's new Child Care Act.

* In order to attract provincial support for this Strategy, the federal government has offered bait.

The bait is that for provinces who are behind on their day care spending, they will receive a higher contribution towards day care costs (80% federal - 20% provincial is one formula on the table). However, there's a hook to that bait: when those provinces catch up to average development, they will lose the additional federal contribution 50% of the costs again, losing the additional federal dollars. This is hardly an incentive for provinces to spend more on child care.

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1988 is now with us and it promises to be as active and as productive as 1987. The Ontario Coalition for Better Child care (now the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care) has already developed a hectic schedule of activities. Child care has moved from being a very marginal issue in the 1970's to a mainstream issue in the 1980's and we are hoping for much improvement in 1988.

First and foremost, we will be addressing ourselves to the new federal "National Child Care Strategy". We have printed a brief analysis of the proposals in this newsletter but a fuller analysis is available from the Coalition office.

After creating an initial stir, the federal "Strategy" seems to have disappeared like a dead duck from the pages of the mainstream press. It is the intention of the Coalition to work with other organizations across the country to resurrect the child care issue on the

political agenda and to ensure that it becomes a central federal election issue.

Monitoring the effects of the Province's New Directions for Child Care will be another important Coalition function in 1988. The Coalition is an active participant in COMSOC's Funding Advisory Committee and we have already made recommendations that the direct grant should be used exclusively for WAGES! Yes, we should see the direct grant in 1988.

The Pay Equity Commission will be studying the impact of the legislation on day care workers and making recommendations to the Government about how to overcome the obvious problems of day care workers not having access to pay equity adjustments under the legislation.

The Provincial Social Services Review will be taking a look at the jurisdiction and administration for day care services and recommending what

role municipalities should have in the future.

We will again make a submission to the Budget Review Committee and hope for more money for day care in 1988-89.

The form of the income test should be announced in 1988, to take effect January, 1989, and we will be working to ensure that subsidies under the new program will extend to more middle-income families.

Another Conference is planned for November 5-6, 1989 followed by our traditional lobby of MPPs in the provincial legislature.

We are also hoping to keep in close contact with all child care advocates around the province, so if you are not already a member, or don't have a local group, think of joining up and starting a local coalition group now!

NEW EXECUTIVE

At the Coalition's Fifth Annual Conference, the following Council members were elected to the Executive:

Laurel Rothman	Action Day Care (President)
Janet Davis	Individual Rep. (Vice-President)
Trisha Keyes-Bevan	York Day Care Coalition
Sue Hunter	Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto
Dave Hagerman	Ottawa Federation of Parents' Day Care;
Brenda Rooms	London Day Care Coalition
Sheryl Manolakos	Muskoka Day Care Committee
Beth Reynett	Ontario Federation of Labour
Pat Johnston	Federation of Women Teachers
Brigid Kemp	Congress of Canadian Women
Fiona Knight	Ontario Federation of Students
Lisa Zufelt	Leeds Grenville Day Care Association

Lesley Russell will continue as an honorary member of the Executive as Past President; Margaret Phillips will attend as often as possible in an ex-officio capacity from the Northwest; and Paula Prieditis will attend on an ex-officio basis as liaison with the Canadian Daycare Advocacy Association.

CHILD CARE CHALLENGE

Volume 6, No. 1

Editor: Lesley Russell

Production & Design: Sue Colley

Special Thanks to the Ontario Teachers Federation for generously donating the printing costs of the newsletter.

The Child Care Challenge is a publication of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, a non-profit, non-governmental Coalition with the goal of achieving a high quality, universally-accessible, non-profit, publicly-funded, comprehensive child care system in Ontario and Canada.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Sue Colley, the Executive Coordinator at the Coalition Office.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care has an office at 555 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1Y6
Tel: (416) 532-4031

STOP PRESS !

GET IN THE PICTURE! STOP THE TORY CHILD CARE PLAN!

Child care is now an issue on the mainstream political agenda in Canada. However, the government is trying to convince provincial governments and many people too that they have done all they need to do. In a pre-election period, it's essential that we let the government, the politicians and the media know that **WE ARE OPPOSED TO THESE PROPOSALS!**

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care has endorsed a national campaign to highlight opposition to the federal government's proposals across Canada. The **CHILD CARE PICTURE CAMPAIGN** aims to get this message across. The campaign is being coordinated by NAC and the CDCAA.

What Can You Do to Support the Child Care Picture Campaign?

1. The **REAL CHILD CARE PICTURE BOOK** will travel across the English-speaking provinces. In each province, photos of the children affected by these proposals together with notes and messages to the Prime Minister will be added to the Real Child Care Picture Book; then the **PICTURE BOOK** will be passed along to the next town. On April 22, the **REAL PICTURE OF CHILD CARE BOOK** will be displayed in Ottawa and the Prime Minister and members of the government will be invited to

see this **REAL PICTURE**. Take pictures of your children and your child care centre to add to the Real Picture of Child Care.

2. In Quebec women's groups and child care advocates have analyzed the proposals and are strongly protesting the federal government's program. They will also be protesting to the Quebec Government to ensure that the demands and needs of Quebec women and children are met.

3. Many towns in Canada will be organizing events to coincide with the arrival of the **REAL PICTURE OF CHILD CARE BOOK**. Call the Coalition office, or your local Coalition Council to find out about the event happening near you and how you can participate. Some communities are organizing meetings, some are burning the briefs they presented to the Special Committee, others are organizing Open Houses and inviting the media to their day care centres.

4. If the Picture Book is not coming to your town, don't let that stop you. Organize your own collection of photographs and messages to the Government and mail your contributions directly to the NAC office. The additional photos and messages from across Canada will be added to the exhibition in Ottawa and presented to

the Government there.

5. Let your MPs know that you are opposed to the new strategy. Write to your MP and tell him/her that you oppose the federal government's National Child Care Strategy and urge them to get them withdrawn. Send a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister and to John Turner and Ed Broadbent. The address for all MPs is: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 (no postage necessary).

6. It is also critical for you to let your local **MPPs** know that you are opposed to these proposals. Provincial governments are negotiating the exact details with the federal government; provincial governments have the power to stop the plan.

7. Let the Coalition know. Please send all copies of correspondence on child care to the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, 555 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario. M5S 1Y6 (416) 532-4031

8. Last but not least - send a donation to the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care to help make this important campaign possible in Ontario.

GET IN THE PICTURE TODAY!



ACROSS CANADA

ALBERTA

Connie Osterman, Alberta Social Services Minister welcomed the federal child care policy and said that Alberta day care centres would receive an "immediate boost" in funding as the province would receive an extra 50 cents for every dollar it spends on child care. The Alberta Association for Young Children said: "The bottom line in Alberta is a lack of quality care, but this issue is not addressed by the federal report". Parents for Quality Child Care in Edmonton called the \$5.4 billion program "wishy-washy". The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee said the policy will not produce more non-profit centres, which offer better child care.

Osterman is considering whittling away operating grants to day care centres. Getty was reported to have said he planned to discuss with Ottawa the possibilities for a better incentive plan to keep children out of day care centres. The Edmonton group Parents for Quality Child Care said Getty should be more concerned with raising standards and the number of quality spaces. "The premier is caught in the myth the province is full of two-parent and extended families". Osterman said she was studying ways to provide provincial money to parents who stay at home. Options included direct payments to parents.

Osterman said the province's long-awaited day care policy would not necessarily increase educational

standards for day care workers. She said mandatory standards would limit the choices parents have for child care and could push up the cost for that care.

SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Child Care Association will be holding its founding convention in Saskatoon at the Bessborough Hotel, January 29-31, 1988.

Rural women in Saskatchewan have recently been speaking out on child care. With more women working increased hours, both on and off the farm, women noted that child care in rural Saskatchewan is becoming a greater and greater problem. Most women have to hire babysitters or use grandmothers to look after their children. "What tends to happen is that other women are paid extremely low (if any) wages for babysitting," said a woman from Gravelbourg.

The women point out that rural child care should not be patterned on urban models of service delivery. Fees have to be low and subsidies need to be organized differently. Daycare centres would also need to be structured around seasonal and shift work. "There is a real need for pilot projects," said a woman from Central Butte. "Women are tired of being told by government that child care centres in rural areas won't work."



NEWFOUNDLAND

The Provincial Women's Advisory Committee is critical of the federal "National Strategy for Child Care" and is urging women's organizations to lobby their MPs against it.

After four years of lobbying and planning, the Confederation Complex Day Care Cooperative Society Ltd. officially opened the doors of Newfoundland and Labrador's first worksite day care centre facility in St. John's last October. The centre can accommodate 50 children and the government is picking up the cost of heat, light and cleaning.

The day care centre is a parent-run cooperative. Says Social Services Minister, Charlie Brett: "We are convinced that this centre and its method of operation as a parent-employee-co-operative will come to be recognized as a model for workplace day care not only in this province, but elsewhere."



CHILD CARE IN THE UNITED STATES: THE GROWTH OF A BIG BUSINESS

Before 1970, most centre-based child care in the U.S. was provided by non-profit organizations and small individual operators. Early in the 1970s, child care was identified as a new "market opportunity" and entrepreneurs began to establish child care companies. As these fledgling companies became profitable and were able to attract outside investment capital, a vigorous expansion took place. During this period of expansion in the late 1970s and early 1980s, a handful of the largest chains were able to buy out smaller and mid-sized operations. By 1986, five major national chains had emerged, operating, collectively, more than 2000 child care centres.

Of the five large national chains, three (Children's World, Gerber Children's Centers and Daybridge Learning Centers) are owned by larger conglomerates. Kinder-Care Learning Centers, the largest and most successful child care chain, and La Petite Academy are viewed as performing well for their stockholders. All of these companies have the organization and the capital to expand rapidly into new markets and an appetite for expansion. A 1983 Fortune magazine article, describing the financial success of the Montgomery, Alabama based Kinder-Care said "A big day-care chain, like a fast-food one, depends on high volume...Building volume by getting centers up and going quickly is Mendel's (Kinder-Care's President) forte, honed in the pre-Kinder-Care years when he put together shopping centers" (Fortune, November 28, 1983, p. 158). As Financial World reported, quoting the Vice President of a New York-based investment firm, "Once you're already established in enough areas, it's easy to open more centers. It can be done very quickly" (Financial World, October 17, 1984, p. 30).



THE PUSH FOR CHILD CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Like Canada, the rapid entry of women into the workforce and the lack of quality child care spaces is resulting in child care becoming an issue on the political agenda in the U.S.

For the first time since 1971, the US Congress has before it a comprehensive child care bill. The Act for Better Child Care, or ABC introduced in November by more than 130 Congressional co-sponsors, is attracting support from groups as wide-ranging as the American Psychological Association and the Zionist organization, NA'AMAT USA. The bill, which comes with a price tag of \$2.5 billion a year for three years with a 20% initial state funding match, is supposed to help states improve child care for all while making it more affordable for low- to moderate-income families. The bill directs funding to states rather than directly to local programs. Allocation of the federal money is based on a state's median income, the number of children under five, and the number of children receiving reduced-price and free school lunches.

The ABC targets 15% of its funds for subsidizing on a state-designed sliding scale, working families who earn up to 115% of a state's median income. States would also decide whether to contract for services or

provide vouchers. Two percent of the federal money is allocated for the extension of existing part-day programs such as Head Start. The remaining 15% goes to developing state and local resource and referral systems, providing grants and low-interest loans to start up and expand programs, establishing recruiting and training programs for child care providers, funding family child care providers to enable them to meet government standards and ensuring adequate salaries for child care workers.

The bill would also establish a national advisory committee that would set enforceable minimum federal standards, including staff-child ratio, group size, parent involvement, caregiver qualifications, and health and safety measures for all child care facilities. Money would be available to help providers meet these, and states would be given five years to comply and reduce their match to 15% or lose funding.

At present, the federal government subsidizes child care in three ways: (1) the Dependent Care Tax Credit allows families to deduct between 20 and 30% of annual child care expenses, which benefits only those with income high enough to have substantial tax liabilities; (2) Title XX Social Services Block Grant; and (3) The school lunch programs.

The White House is reported to be "unfavourably inclined" toward the bill. The last President to be presented with similar legislation was Richard Nixon-- and he vetoed it.

Reprinted from the Globe and Mail

January 19, 1988

No way to bring up baby

Ottawa's child-care strategy misses a golden opportunity to do things the proper way

BY MARTHA FRIENDLY
and LAUREL ROTHMAN

Ms Friendly is a researcher at the University of Toronto's Centre for Urban and Community Studies. Ms Rothman is an urban planner involved in developing child-care services.

AFTER FIVE YEARS of intense public debate, the federal Government recently unveiled its long-awaited strategy for child care, and interested groups have been scrutinizing the proposal to determine whether it can form the basis of an effective national system. As it stands, it cannot.

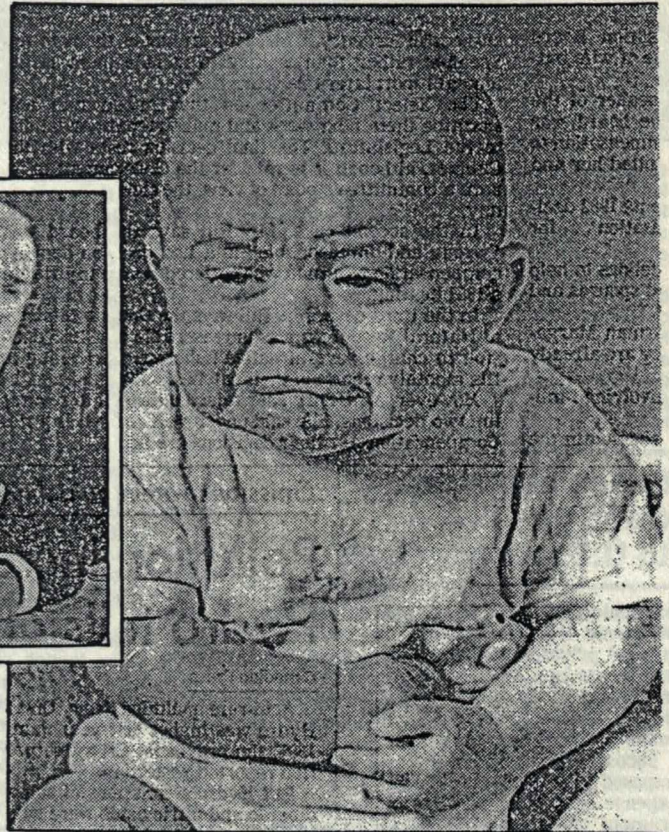
During the early 1980s, child-care advocates called for federal leadership in developing a system that, with substantial support from the taxpayer, would feature a variety of non-profit services and be available to all Canadian families. During the next few years, child care emerged as a prominent social-policy issue, and by the 1984 federal election, all three political parties found it necessary to make it a campaign issue.

The federally appointed Task Force on Child Care carried out Canada's first comprehensive study of the subject, and its 1986 report documented the need for child care in every part of the country. The report also confirmed that there was a growing consensus on how child care should evolve in Canada — that, over a number of years, a system should be developed that enhances parental-leave benefits and allows families to choose from a variety of high-quality, non-profit services.

A second federal committee toured the country in 1986 to hear what Canadians had to say. At a series of public meetings, the Special Committee on Child Care heard from a wide range of groups, such as parents, child-care and social-service workers, educators, trade unionists and women's, religious and business organizations. Most participants generally echoed the goals described in the report, but the committee's Conservative MPs instead recommended changing the Child Care Expense Deduction to a tax credit and offering modest direct financing and capital grants to both commercial and non-profit child-care programs. The Liberal and New Democratic Party committee members dissented, and public response to the report was negative.



Jake Epp unveiling program and (below) day-care centre on Parliament Hill: cost put ahead of quality.



Although the Government then promised a national child-care plan by last June, it didn't arrive until last month. The strategy Ottawa announced was to spend up to \$5.4-billion over seven years, with \$2.3-billion of it earmarked for tax measures — doubling the Child Care Expense Deduction to \$4,000 for those who submit receipts for their child-care expenses and a tax credit of \$200 a year for at-home mothers and working parents without receipts. Another \$100-million is to be spent on special projects.

The remaining \$3-billion to be made available under the proposed Canada Child Care Act means \$428-million a year would be divided among the provinces and territories — providing they pay a share of the cost. The money is intended to provide capital costs for establishing new programs, to offset operating costs and to provide subsidies for low-income

families. Ottawa says the package will produce 200,000 new child-care spaces over the seven years.

In making the announcement, Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp said the program "will recognize child care as a social and economic priority for Canadian families. The goals of the strategy will give parents choices in caring for their children and will improve the availability, affordability and quality of child care offered."

But Canadians should ask themselves whether such a strategy will really bring these worthy goals any closer.

In fact, the Government's approach is fundamentally flawed. It offers neither a national plan nor an equitable program with a coherent framework for making sure the federal money



WAGES SHRINK AS PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN CHILD CARE WORKFORCE INCREASES

(Here's an interesting little extract from the Child Care Employee News, Winter 1988, vol. 7 #1, published in the U.S.)

Wages in the child care field shrunk 25% and the field became increasingly female-dominated in the 1980s, new data from the Census Bureau (CB) reveal. Mean hourly earnings of full time female providers dropped in real dollars from \$2.67 in 1979 to \$1.99 in 1986, measured in 1979 dollars. The margin of error is 13 cents, CB says. Figures exclude in-home care. During this time, the percentage of women in the field increased from 88.9% to 97.9%.

The CB occupational statistician attributes the drop in real earnings to the growth in the field. The number of full time providers grew from 116,000 to 249,000 during this period. Most of the growth occurred in lower-paid jobs. The growing for-profit sector tends to pay less than the longer-established non-profits (Day Care USA, 8/17/87 & 9/14/87).

really does improve the availability, affordability and quality of child care. Instead, the new financing scheme could hinder the development of child care in Canada for years to come, particularly in terms of quality.

First, the new operating grants and subsidies for low-income families can be used for commercial child care even though research has found that programs operated for profit are less likely to provide high-quality care than are non-profit services. Child-care experts fear the new federal dollars will attract large U.S. child-care businesses to Canada,

Policy may open Canada's doors to U.S. corporations

particularly in the current free-trade climate. Moreover, the use of federal tax revenues to support private business on an on-going basis appears to be a new and dangerous precedent in Canada. There is no rationale for this direction, if improving the quality of child care is really the Government's goal.

Second, the proposal introduces a federally imposed incentive to keep costs down at the expense of quality. To date, the federal Government has not limited money to subsidize spaces for low-income children, but cost-conscious provinces required to share the expense haven't always taken full advantage of the available money. The new proposal will restrict federal expenditures for the first time.

While competing with one another for federal money, the provinces will be forced to make difficult choices. Will a province limit subsidies to low-income families in order to offer operating funds to improve quality? Or will it use federal dollars for capital expenditures to expand the number of spaces but provide no increase in subsidies for low-income families? These competing priorities will create a situation in which it is difficult to improve quality, and it may become harder for a low-income family to get a subsidy.

Third, a substantial chunk of the \$5.4-billion will go to parents through the two tax measures. This large expenditure is unrelated to the goal of "giving parents choices" and "improving availability, affordability and quality." No other country with similar child-care goals has used individual payments to parents to meet those goals, and such a tactic appears to have a poor chance of success.

Finally, the child-care proposal makes no mention of expanding parental child-care leaves, even though all recent proposals for improving child care in Canada have included better paid leaves for either parent as part of a comprehensive package.

In the coming months, the Government's strategy will be weighed by those who have been waiting for improvements in child care. The current proposal lacks vision, is a poor way to spend public money and is unlikely to form a strong foundation for the child-care system that families want and need. Last March, the Prime Minister said that Canadians "shall have an effective national system of child care." They are still waiting.

WILL THERE BE AN ELECTION IN 1988?

Although it changes day by day, pundits are predicting September, 1988 as the likely date for a federal election: Mulroney loves summer campaigning; it has to occur before the effects of the recession and industrial restructuring due to the free trade agreement really have an impact; and

yet Mulroney has more chance to win on the free trade issue than on his own individual or government record; and most importantly, redistribution of constituencies is due to take effect July 12th, giving the Tories a definite advantage. The spring has been ruled out because of the Economic Summit hosted by Mulroney in June, the mud in Prince Albert and the chilly winds of April in Saskatchewan. Kissing babies and attending corn roasts occur more easily in August!



Childcare Information

Sheets. Childcare Resource and Research Unit. Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto. Toronto: 1987.

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit has begun a series of information sheets about child care in Canada. Currently available are a series on child care in each of the provinces and territories. Information about child care in each province describes government expenditures, the role of municipalities, provincial legislation, the types of licensed child care available, licensing requirements, the number of licensed spaces and details about subsidies. Information sheets on infectious illnesses in child care, regulatory systems, comprehensive child care and an inter-provincial comparison of funding arrangements are also available from the Childcare Resource and Research Unit, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, 455 Spadina, Toronto M5S 2G8 (416 978-6895)

Good Childcare/Healthy Childcare.

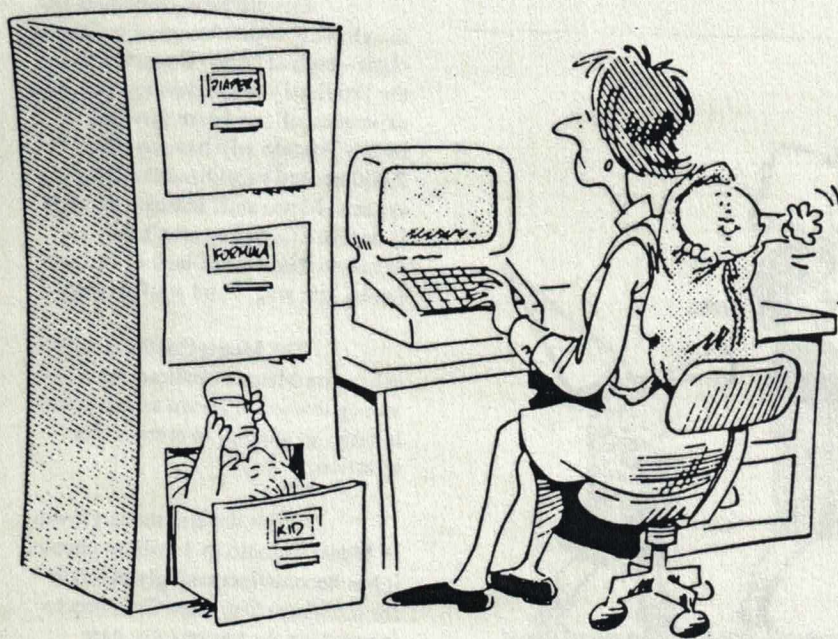
This audio visual presentation describes the relationship between communicable diseases and hygiene practices in child care arrangements. It outlines the steps involved in developing healthy hygiene practices and describes specific components such as hand washing and diapering routines. The program was developed for use in professional development activities, parent education programs, Early Childhood Education college programs, and others interested in maintaining the health of children in child care. The ten minute production is available in video or slide/tape format from the Childcare Resource and Research Unit, 455 Spadina, Toronto M5S 2G8 (416 978-6895) or from the Area

A Survey of Child Care Support Services. Child Care Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services. Toronto: 1987.

This report describes the results of a survey concerning the development and community use of child care support services which are designed to enhance informal child care arrangements. The survey was conducted with nearly one hundred resource centres, two network projects and four prevention projects. The survey found that the programs often did not recognize or provide services to meet caregivers' and parents' differing needs. The programs' primary focus tends to be on providing parent support, rather than parent education about informal care or services to caregivers. The most common services were workshops, play groups, toy libraries and discussion groups. Overall, the programs seem to be moving toward serving high risk parents rather than enhancing informal child care arrangements. It appears that programs have difficulty attracting informal caregivers because of the difficulty involved in bringing three or four children to a program, because of their reluctance to be identified as paid caregivers, and because of income tax and social assistance implications. To obtain a copy contact: Child Care Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, 700 Bay St. 9th Floor, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z6 (416) 965-0912.

Child Care Directions Newsletter

Child Care Directions is a new publication of the Ministry of Social and Community Services. This quarterly publication is intended to keep members of the child care community, and others interested in this issue, up to date on the Ministry's progress. To obtain a copy free of charge, contact: Editor, Child care Directions, Child Care Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, 700 Bay St. 9th Floor, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z6 (416) 965-0912.



The Nellie Langford Rowell Library has a new pamphlet series including: *Pay Equity: Perspectives*. Pay equity is new to Ontario, although forms of it exist elsewhere. Papers discuss the philosophical, economic and political sides of pay equity and its implications - for women and for the economy. Pamphlets cost \$2 each and are available from the Nellie Langford Rowell Library, 202C Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, North York, Ont. M3J 1P3.

The Swedish Information Service has available a Report by Linda Haas: "Fathers' Participation in Parental Leave".

This report summarizes findings from a recent study of Swedish parents, in which one of the goals was to discover the barriers to fathers taking time off from work to care for a newborn. The study was funded by the American-Scandinavian Foundation and Indiana University and took place during 1985-86.

Also available free of charge from the Swedish Information Service are the following reports:

Equality between Men and Women in Sweden (1987)

Child Care in Sweden (April, 1987)

Swedish Women on the Move by Birgitta Wistrand, 1981

The Swedish Child Care Leave Act, 1985

Act Concerning Equality between Women and Men at Work,

An Overview of Rural Child Care Needs and Preferences, Ministry of Community and Social Services, November, 1987. Report consists of a literature review on rural child care and a discussion of rural definitions. A series of interviews and a survey of needs and preferences was done for the report. In addition, surveys that had already been done by others and relevant statistics are included. Although child care is a concern for families in all communities, this report attempts to identify the issues unique to rural areas.

THUNDER BAY

Program reviews are now complete in the Northwest but these municipalities are still unclear about what will happen to their transitional grants and also whether the workers will receive salary increases under the new direct grant program.

New Projects: The University has opened a new day care centre: the Nanabijou day care centre which is a workplace day care run by a non-profit board. Red Rock is putting a new day care centre in the town library. Little Lions Nursery School in Thunder Bay is expanding to provide full day care. A hub model is being planned at Confederation College but that looks like a year and a half away. Fort Frances is working towards getting a new centre. For more information, contact Margaret Phillips (807-623-9067).

METRO TORONTO

2000 Spaces Handed Back - Unspent!

Despite New Directions and the glowing commitment of politicians - both at Metro Council and at the Province - to the development and expansion of child care services, Metro Toronto will have to return 2,000 unused subsidized daycare spaces. Metro staff indicate that this is because there just aren't the vacancies because of lack of capital funds, low wages and staff shortages.

The Metro Coalition will be calling on Metro to redirect its unused money towards a Metro salary grant in order to attempt to redress this situation.

With the enormous growth of Metro Toronto to 3 million people, it has become increasingly difficult for the Metro Day Care Coalition to incorporate the various day care concerns of different communities across Metro Toronto.



LOCAL LINES

In response to this situation, a local "day care coalition" is being developed in each of Metro's municipalities. There will be 2 or 3 reps from each city--Toronto, Scarborough, York, East York, North York and Etobicoke--on the steering committee of the Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto. Each rep

will act as the liaison between their local area and the steering committee will also include 4 to 6 members-at-large. The Metro Coalition will send a representative to sit on the Council of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. Two general meetings of the entire Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto membership will be held annually.

For more information:
Sue Hunter, Metro Coalition Chairperson; 534-6761(w) 588-4947(h) Etobicoke: Irene Gabinet: 537-8370
Scarborough: Wendy Sturgeon 267-5050
North York: Karen Lieberman 733-4626
City of York: Fran Birch-Gretton 658-1874

SUDBURY

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has provided funding for a play centre/toy lending library for children, parents and home day care providers in Sudbury. Located on Applegrove (formerly Spruce) Street, the bilingual Play Centre/Joujoutheque will begin operations in early January. This year, the Ministry provided \$24,100 for start up costs and \$32,400 for its operation. In future, the Ministry will provide \$60,000 annually. For more information: Carole Lamoureux 705-855-3080(h) 674-3334(w)

PORT COLBORNE

The Port Colborne Childcare Needs Study, conducted between June and October 1987, indicated a very real

need for more licenced services in Port Colborne as well as quality alternative types of child care.

Out of 1000 distributed questionnaires, 200 respondents (representing 362 children) were in need of some



sort of child care. The information showed an immediate need for infant, preschool and schoolage child care that is affordable and accessible to a range of full and part-time workers.

Currently, individuals rely primarily on spouses, other family members, friends and informal babysitters. Personal comments indicated a desire for standards regarding their child's safety, nutrition and development. A few respondents were using licensed care in Port Colborne and Welland.

Port Colborne now offers licenced full day child care to 30 preschoolers in its regional centre and to 15 infants, as well as toddlers and schoolage children in its regional private home child care

program. It has licensed half days of care for 118 children in its three nursery schools.

WINDSOR COALITION

During the Week of the Child last October, the Windsor & District Coalition for Better Daycare organized a Public Awareness Booth in a local shopping mall. They handed out information bulletins on child care issues, balloons for the kids and solicited signatures for the National Child Care Petition. The event was worthwhile and the public was very interested in the issues.

Members of the Windsor Coalition also attended and supported an anti-free trade demonstration held at the Ambassador Bridge, Niagara Falls, on Saturday, January 2nd, along with about 1500 other concerned Canadians. The demonstration was organized by the Windsor & District Labour Council to coincide with the signing of the Free Trade Agreement by Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan.

The Windsor Coalition meets on the second Monday of each month. For more information, please call Patti Strople at (519) 255-5224.

WATERLOO COALITION

The Waterloo Region Coalition for Better Child Care has had a busy fall after forming in August and advocating during the provincial elections. We now have the following local groups as part of the Coalition; the Waterloo County Women Teachers' Federation,

Parents & Children Together (Home Daycare), Co-op Day Care Council, Waterloo Infant Toddler Day Care Association, St. Monica's House, University of Waterloo and WLU Student Federations. We also have parents, child care workers and interested individuals as part of the group.

In November the Region of Waterloo Health & Social Services Committee held an open meeting to receive input from the public on child care. Several of our member groups spoke. There was also input from the local Social Planning Council and a group representing country and farm women. Local representatives from ComSoc were in the audience. The following issues became very clear during the presentations:

- (i) that although the regional home daycare program does not have a waiting list, salaries, education and working conditions should be improved for home day care providers.
- (ii) It was recommended that some minor rules and regulations around subsidy eligibility be altered in order to increase eligibility and provide more parent choice, and
- (iii) The lack of infant/toddler care and before and after school care in the region is a major concern.

The farm daycare group outlined the specific needs of farm families such as caregivers coming into the home and the seasonal needs of farm life.

A local non-profit child care centre raised an interesting issue with respect to health and safety issues. They suggested that the local health unit is not educating day care centres sufficiently on sanitary procedures. Kitchen/bathroom routines; handwashing/diaper washing practices are areas that the Health Nurse should be addressing. After the meeting, several child care workers also expressed concerns and suggested that workshops and more inspections in this area would cut down the number of communicable diseases in child care centres.

COALITION CONFERENCE:

THE TIMES-THEY-ARE-A-CHANGIN'

It was packed, steamy and uncomfortable. But the Fifth annual conference and lobby of the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare was generally an interesting and challenging experience for the 500 participants.

The Conference was opened on the Saturday morning by the City of Toronto's mayor, Art Eggleton. Proceedings got quickly underway with an exciting panel discussion including Marjorie Cohen, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Lise Corbeil-Vincent of the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, Jack London, ex-Katie Cooke Task Force Member, The Hon. Barbara McDougall, MP and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, and Ruth Rose-Lizée, Quebec political science professor and ex-Katie Cooke Task Force member.

The panel discussed the effects of Free Trade and the Meech Lake Accord on child care and the calibre of the speakers meant that it was intense. The balance of the morning involved participants in a wide

variety of workshops ranging from an Introduction to Day Care Politics to a discussion on Racism: Invisible Barrier to Good Day Care.

The afternoon's panel focussed on a discussion of the role of commercial child care in Canada. Speakers included Julie Davis, Vice-President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, Mary Humphrey, Director of Day Care from Manitoba, Jake Kuiken, Alberta representative from the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, and Jeff Smith, owner of a commercial day care centre in Ontario.

More workshops were organized for the rest of the afternoon and by 6 p.m. everyone was exhausted.

The main feature of the Sunday was the francophone workshops and discussion. The francophone participants decided to set up a francophone network and press for more services for francophone day care centres from the provincial government.

Preparations for the lobby and the afternoon Council Meeting completed the agenda and for those with energy left, there was a delicious dinner and frenetic dancing to finish off a jam-packed weekend.

Our goals for 1988 are to advocate during the municipal and possible federal elections, work with local schoolboards and set up a small resource centre for parents seeking information about good child care. For more information about the Waterloo Coalition, please contact Jane Mitchell, 368 Erb Street West, Waterloo. If you wish to receive a copy of our newsletter, our first issue will have a report on home child care around the world, please send \$2 for individuals and \$10 for organizations to the above address.

For more information: Jane Mitchell (519) 886-9626.



LOBBY AT QUEEN'S PARK

On Monday, November 9, 1987, 400 people crammed into the Ontario Room at the Macdonald Block in Queen's Park to pose questions about day care policy to each of the three provincial political parties.

This year we were joined by a large contingent from the United Steelworkers of America from all around the province as well as 50 children from University Settlement House Day Care Centre.

The most exciting session was, of course, with the provincial Liberals who turned out in force. In fact, for many of them it was standing room only. John Sweeney, Minister of Community and Social Services, explained the intent of the New Directions policy, assured us that direct grants were coming, that subsidies would be available to middle-income parents in Ontario and reiterated his commitment to the development of a non-profit child care system in Ontario.

When asked whether he was prepared to limit new purchase of service agreements to non-profit day care programs only, Mr. Sweeney admitted that this deserved review in view of the intent to develop only non-profit day care in Ontario.



COALITION COUNCIL: NOVEMBER MEETING

The Council meeting was attended by 50 members from local coalitions across the province, provincial organizations and the new individual members elected to the Council at the Conference.

A new Executive Committee was elected, the Coalition formally changed its name to the **ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE**, and it was decided to incorporate as a non-profit organization in order to meet the requirements of funding agencies.

The delegate from the Association Canadien-française de l'ontario, Catherine Lengyel reported that 35 francophones had registered for the French portion of the Conference; last year there were two! The francophone delegates decided to set up an autonomous francophone child care network which would eventually join both ACFO and the Coalition once a structure is in place. (For more information contact the Coalition office).

The Coalition is proceeding with plans to develop bilingual services and seek appropriate funding.

Policy issues discussed included the Coalition's position on the role of municipalities in the funding and administration of child care and that the recently-announced direct grant be used for salaries.

COALITION ADOPTS POLICY ON ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES

The wide variance in availability of subsidized child care across the province has always concerned the Coalition. It has meant that some municipalities, such as Metro Toronto and Ottawa, have been more generous in their willingness to spend more money on child care than others, such

as London, Muskoka or the county of Lennox Addington. This is because municipalities are required to initiate spending for child care. Before the province will provide funding, the municipality must commit itself to paying 20% of the costs of the services that it initiates. Many municipalities refuse to spend more than the bare minimum.

Since its inception, the Coalition has been concerned about this critical of municipalities in the administration and delivery of day care services. Only a minority of municipalities are willing (or able) to afford the 20% funds to meet the needs of all eligible parents in their communities and, in consequence, there is a wide disparity of accessibility to subsidies across the province.

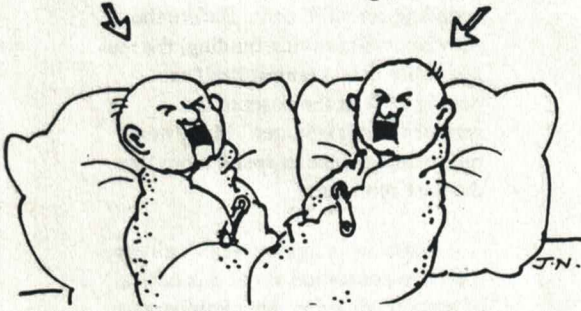
There is now a Provincial Social Services Review Committee examining this, among other, issues. The Coalition will be recommending to the Committee that municipalities not be required to contribute 20% for their share of subsidized child care services, but that they be encouraged to voluntarily make contributions towards non-profit child care by directly operating their own programs, by providing capital funds, development funding and taking other initiatives, for example professional development. Instead, it is recommended that the province be responsible for the administration of all child care funding (including subsidies under the Canada Assistance Plan); that it be decentralized and that funding for child care programs be cost-shared on a 50% - 50% basis with the federal government.



QUEEN'S PARK BEAT

STURDY.
HANDSOME.
BIG + TOUGH....

DAINTY
DELICATE
SWEET + CHARMING....



FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Funding Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of Community and Social Services has continued to meet during the late fall and early winter. It's main focus in this phase of the plan is unchanged--to submit recommendations concerning the disbursement of direct funds to licenced child care programmes in Ontario. Most of our energy has been directed toward the arrangements for the non-profit sector.

The Advisory Committee which has the power only to make recommendations to the Ministry, continues to strongly favour direct operating money to be used only to improve salaries, care-provider payments and staff benefits. We did note that if a centre wishes to deviate from this instruction, a plan should be developed for another use of the funds. Such situations would be considered to be exceptional and special exemption would be required from the Child Care Branch and/or the Area Office of the Ministry.

The FAC has noted that there needs to be considerable discussion on conditions for commercial programs and we expect to make definite recommendations in this area over the course of the next few weeks.

All in all, the Advisory Committee made a total of 31 recommendations to the Ministry's Steering Committee. What will happen to these

MEACH LAKE AND CHILD CARE!

WOMEN'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION is assisting women's groups across the province to make presentations to the Select Committee of Constitutional Reform which is studying the 1987 Constitutional Accord signed by Canada's first ministers in June 1987. If you want an opportunity to give the Committee, the Premier and the Cabinet your views on the Accord, on our Constitution's amending procedure and your views on equality rights, call Deborah Deller, clerk of the Committee at 963-2977 and request an appointment to appear. Deadline is January 31, 1988. Call the Ad Hoc Committee (free of charge) to request an information kit (416) 964-1232 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

recommendations remains to be seen. The Ministry appears to remain committed to flow the funds within the next few weeks to the non-profit centres. This money will represent payment for the last quarter of 1987-88. After that, and depending on federal/provincial discussions, commercial sector programs which were licensed (or in the process of becoming licensed) on December 7, 1987 will be included.

Much work remains for the FAC as it must also tackle the question of the commitment of the province to move from a needs test to an income test to determine subsidy eligibility. Obviously, discussion of the role played by the Municipalities will be part of this issue.

If you have information or opinion to contribute or a question to ask about the Coalition's participation in this process, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

CENTRE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Expect a joint statement from COMSOC and Ministry of Education on their plans for developing child care in the schools very soon. It's now policy and \$11.1 million has been allocated. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community and Social Service are developing a joint



plan to put child care programs in all of its 41 schools opening in September, 1988. The Ministry of Education will be providing 100% dollars for the capital building costs and the Ministry of Community and Social Services will be providing 80% of start-up and operating costs. Centres will all be non-profit.

The Centre for Early Childhood and Elementary Education and the Child Care Branch of COMSOC are coordinating the new programs in consultation with Education Regional Offices, School Boards, child care centres, other voluntary organizations and parents. Julie Mathien, previously our Ontario steering committee member on the Canadian Daycare Advocacy Association has been seconded to the Ministry for 2 years from the Toronto Board of Education. She will be working with Fran Moscall and Michelle Broshart to assist and develop policy within the Ministry of Education to ensure the program's success.

THE FLEXIBLE SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Following New Directions, the Child Care Branch has set up the Flexible Services Development Project. Pilot projects will be funded to test flexible models of child care in designated atypical situations. Pilots will be allowed to operate outside all current licensing standards and funding arrangements if necessary. The program will include local needs assessments and program evaluation.

Funding for the project is confirmed for 3 years:

1st year - \$1.6 million; 2nd year \$2.2 million; 3rd year \$3.1 million. In the first year, the following funding will be available:

Up to \$300,000 will be spent on local needs' assessments.

Up to \$300,000 will be spent on evaluation

Up to \$1,000,000 will be available for actual projects.

Background research will be starting this month to explore what exists in other areas for emergency care, shiftworker care, rural care, integrated care, special needs care, etc. This research will include consultation with other ministries, such as the Ministry of Health, a literature review and models of needs assessments.

Area offices, in conjunction with the Child Care Branch, will be deciding on the allocation of the funds for the Project. There is only a limited amount of money, so if you are interested in testing a "flexible model" contact your local area office and express your interest.

For further information, contact Jane Beach, Consultant, Project Coordinator, Child Care Branch, (416) 965-3130

PAY EQUITY

The Pay Equity Act passed last fall includes a provision for the Pay Equity Commission to make recommendations dealing with sectors of the economy where there is obvious gender discrimination, but where the provisions of the act do not apply. Day care workers are an obvious example.

Day care workers in the private (both commercial and non-profit) sector will, by and large, not be able to negotiate pay equity adjustments because they do not have enough men

in their establishment to compare their wages to, or because there are too few staff (under 10).

The Pay Equity Commission is currently preparing an Options Paper for the Minister's approval. The option paper is exploring how they will conduct and complete this study by January 1, 1989. Hopefully, this will be public within the next couple of months.

NOT THE WHOLE STORY, SAYS RYERSON DIRECTOR

Dear Coalition:

I read with interest the column in the previous edition of the newsletter on the recent fee increase at the Ryerson daycares. The article states that the change in fees was the result of recent salary increases, which amounts to "4% yearly", while "the fee increases amount to 17%-39%." The column also states that Ryerson should cover such increases. Obviously, there is a need to disclose the full picture as it pertains to this situation.

The recent salary scale negotiated through OPSEU for the daycare centre teachers is one of which Ryerson is particularly proud. Now Ryerson has a pay scale for its teachers which at least in part recognizes and rewards the depth of knowledge and expertise which is required in working in a lab school setting. The resultant annual increase is 21% and amounts to a starting salary of about \$24,000.

The School of Early Childhood Education is one of the few programs at Ryerson which has an operational component to it. The day care operations serve the School in contributing to the student's education, as well as serving the community in the provision of day care of the highest quality. Because of the nature of the relationship between the day cares and the school, Ryerson supports these day cares by subsidizing the cost of running the centres. The salary expenditures were met not only by an increase in fees but also through a contribution by Ryerson of 25% of the overall operating budget (including the increase).

I wish to make it clear that the fee increase was a necessary move in order to set a standard in removing day care teachers from the low wages

*DEBBIE CHANT
ACTING DIRECTOR
RYERSON SCHOOL OF EARLY EDUCATION*

COALITION MEETING DATES 1988

Executive:

February 20 - Dinner Meeting,
Toronto. March 27

April 22 to be held in Ottawa

June 4 evening

August 28

October 2

November 4, evening

Council:

February 21, OISE, Toronto

June 5, Toronto, Place TBA

November 5-6 During Annual
Conference

PUBLIC FORUM

March 23rd. 7:30 p.m. Alexander
Public School, Dundas & Broadview
NDP Public Forum: Schools and the
Community: A Special Focus on
Daycare, Adult Literacy and Life-
Long Learning.

For more information: Call the
Coalition Office: 532-4031

IN BRIEF

DIRECTION 2000

Direction 2000 is a non-profit
community-based day care devel-
opment organization which assists
groups to get child care programs
started in and around Southern
Ontario. It now has two projects
underway: Bladen Day Care Centre in
North York and a new infant-toddler
program in Wexford School.

Direction 2000 has appointed Ev
McKee as day care consultant to
develop the non-profit, community-
based day care in Wexford School. Ev
is a former day care supervisor with
Metro Children's Services and was at
Jesse Ketchum Day Care for 20 years.
The centre is scheduled to open in
September, 1988. If you are interested
in developing a day care program in
and around Metro Toronto, call Ev
McKee at (416) 924-8865 for more
information.

NORTHWEST REGION DAY CARE FORUM

RESERVE THESE DATES:

FEBRUARY 5th and 6th, 1988

and plan to attend the Northwestern
Ontario Regional Day Care Forum
which will be held in Thunder Bay
(Red Oak Inn). This Forum will
continue the process begun at the 1986
and 1987 forums. Through informa-
tion sharing and action planning we
will develop our strategies to ensure
that high quality child care is
developed and maintained in our local
communities and throughout the
region. Federal and provincial day
care policies, along with municipal
day care issues, will be addressed at
this Forum.

The Forum will be of interest to
parents, day care workers and admin-
istrators, politicians, and community
day care advocates. Transportation
and accommodation subsidies will be
available for delegates who are unable
to obtain local sponsorship.

Detailed Forum information,
agenda, registration forms, are
available from the Northwestern
Ontario Regional
Day Care Committee, Box 144,
Thunder Bay P7C 4V5 (623-9067).

TAX REFORM

On June 18, 1987, Michael
Wilson, Minister of Finance presented
his government's tax reform propos-
als. Mr. Wilson, in his speech, stated
"Tax reform is much more than
simply fixing what has gone wrong
with our tax system" and "we have an
opportunity to build a new tax system
that will be fairer and more progres-
sive".

NATIONAL CHILD CARE CONFERENCE CANADIAN DAYCARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION THIRD NATIONAL DAYCARE CONFERENCE:

"MEET THE CHALLENGE"

The Skyline Hotel, Ottawa. April
21-24, 1988.

Travel Subsidies available.

A concentrated three day
program has been designed to meet
the need for ongoing policy
development, strategies for
promoting the child care issue,
skill building, networking and in-
formation sharing about program
developments across the country.

Two days of plenary sessions
and workshops dealing with
policy, strategy, skill building and
general information. On the third
day CDCAA members will vote on
policy resolutions.

For more information: Lynne
Westlake, CDCAA, 323 Chapel
Street, Ottawa, K1N 7Z2 (613)
594-3196

It is, however, unlikely that these
goals have been realized. Households
with more than \$100,000 in income
will get an income tax cut five times
greater than that of the average family
making between \$30,000 and \$40,000.
The average family has already paid
massive tax increases under this gov-
ernment, and will now face a new
sales tax. Meanwhile the wealthy get
the biggest tax cut and they will get
many lucrative tax breaks such as
special treatment for capital gains.

In their Minority Report, the
NDP argued that changes to the rate
structure and elimination of unfair tax
breaks could be used to reduce the
income tax burden on average families

The following Coalition publications are available from the Coalition office upon request. Please send \$2 for each publication with your order.

A Brief to the Government of the Province of Ontario
on Daycare Services in Ontario, April, 1984

Brief to the Standing Committee on Social Development,
Province of Ontario, September, 1984

Brief to the Commission of Inquiry on Unemployment
Insurance. "Paid Parental Leave Policies: Can
Canada's Unemployment Insurance Scheme Meet The
Challenge?" January 1986

Brief to Special Parliamentary Committee on Child Care,
May 1986

Brief "Still Time For Change, Ontario Provincial Child
Care Policy," October 1986

1986 Conference Proceedings, Still Time For Change,
December, 1986

Brief to the Standing Committee on Administration of
Justice: "Bill 154/86: An Act To Provide Pay Equity
in the Broader Public Sector and in the Private Sector,
The Pay Equity Act, 1986," May, 1987

Brief to the Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs, January 1987

Brief to the Select Committee on Health: "Development
of Non-Profit Child Care in Ontario," April 1987

Brief to the Select Committee on Health: "On Statistics",
April 1987

Response to Report of Special Committee on Child Care
Federal Child Care Policy, June 1987

Response to Government of Ontario Policy: New Directions
for Child Care, June 1987

Brief to the Government of Ontario: "The Times They Are A-
Changin'", November 1987

Response to Federal Government National Strategy on Child Care: "Smoke And Mirrors? Or a New Federal
Government Child Care Plan", December 1987

One evening
at 24 Sussex
Drive



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Ontario's only daycare advocacy newsletter, featuring news, reviews and updates about daycare around the province.

-----clip and mail today-----

Membership Fees (includes newsletter subscription)

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Daycare Centres, organizations, etc.....\$20
Local Daycare Coalitions.....\$20

(Provincial organizations are requested to contact us for membership fees)

Subscription Fees for Non-Members

Subscription only.....\$10

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Enclosed please find a donation to support the Coalition, of:

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