

# Day Care Crisis!

**IT'S TIME  
TO  
DEMAND:**

- Direct Grants to non-profit day care centres for every child enrolled, regardless of whether they receive a subsidy or not. (This means that if you now pay \$12 per day for a pre-schooler the government would contribute an extra \$5 per day to go towards increasing day care workers' salaries and reducing your fees).
- Creation of 10,000 more subsidized day care spaces before January, 1982.
- Provision of start-up grants of \$100 per child to assist new centres in equipping and supplying their centres.

**JOIN WITH ACTION DAY CARE TO GIVE THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO A VERY CLEAR MESSAGE**

- There simply are not enough spaces. Waiting lists far exceed the need for all forms of day care.
- Workers are still earning poverty-level salaries which average less than \$10,000 a year.
- Fees range from \$2,600 to \$6,400 a year. It's not affordable for most working parents and very few qualify for subsidy.
- There are no start-up funds to assist new centres to get organized, buy equipment and supplies or to carry out necessary renovations.

**ONTARIO'S CHILDREN  
DESPERATELY NEED  
IMMEDIATE CHANGES  
IN THE DAY CARE  
SYSTEM!**

**ACTION DAY CARE**

362-1033

19 Carr Street

Toronto, Ontario

*Fight for the Direct Grant and More Spaces NOW!!*

# what is the direct grant?

- The provincial government would pay a daily amount to a licensed, non-profit group or supervised family home day care for every child enrolled, whether or not the child's parents are subsidized.
- These amounts would vary according to the type of programme: \$5 for pre-schoolers; \$8 for infants and toddlers; and \$2.50 for part-timers.
- The funds could be used to increase salaries and reduce fees. Of course, individual day care centres or agencies would decide on exact allocations. But, here is an example. At a centre currently charging \$12 per day for a pre-schooler, the centre might decide to allocate \$2 per day to reduce the parent day care fees to \$10 and allocate the remaining \$3 per day to go towards increasing salaries.
- The programme would not interfere with or contravene the province's agreements with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan. Subsidies under this scheme would continue, and the present cost-sharing arrangements for parent subsidies and capital cost grants would still exist between all three levels of government. The provincial government would pay for the total cost of the direct grant programme and claim 14% of its cost back from the federal government.
- Unlike the present subsidy system, receiving the grants would not be contingent on a parent's ability to meet the requirements of a welfare "needs" test. Every child would qualify.
- The direct grant programme would not be contingent on local governments' initiative, involvement or dollars. The burden of financing the programme would not rest on local tax dollars and its regressive tax base.
- The Children's Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services has established a centralized information system on computers for all licensed day care programs. The direct grant programme could be incorporated into the annual licensing process currently in effect.
- Action Day Care realizes that there are centres which are individually owned and operated, offering good quality day care and not making huge profits. We suggest that these centres be able to change their status to non-profit and thus be eligible for direct grants.
- Winning the DIRECT GRANT would be a first step towards **FREE UNIVERSAL QUALITY DAY CARE.**

A "crumb in a famine" was all we got for day care services from Frank Miller's 1981-82 budget. Once again, we are going to have to demand more from the politicians at Queen's Park. As a first step, Action Day Care is launching the "PHONE DREA TODAY" campaign, so that by the fall, Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services, will have no doubt what the demands of day care workers and parents are. TO THAT END, WE URGE EVERYONE TO:

# Phone Drea Today!

(416) 965-2341

## OUR DEMANDS

- Direct grants to every child in a non-profit day care centre or agency, at the following rates: \$5 for preschoolers; \$8 for infants/toddlers; and \$2.50 for children in part-time care.
- Creation of 10,000 new subsidized day care spaces, as an immediate short-term measure.
- Provision of start-up funds of \$100 per child for each new day care centre.

## SOME POINTS YOU CAN MAKE

Day care workers earn less than \$10,000 a year. Parents cannot afford higher fees, so the only way fees can be reduced and wages increased is by the direct grant to day care centres from the government.

269,000 mothers with children under 5 are working, yet there are only 17,000 full-time subsidized spaces.

There is no money available for the necessary equipment, supplies and renovations. The government must assist.

# Direct Grant Campaign

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

If implemented, the Direct Grant Programme would allow for a substantial increase in day care workers' salaries and reduce or at least stabilize parents' fees. To successfully conduct this campaign, we urge you to do the following:

- Participate in the **PHONE DREA TODAY** campaign now. Telephone Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services at 965-2341 and your own MPP. Tell them what your demands are.
- Endorse and support a demonstration at Queen's Park on October 16th. Join a committee to help organize this rally.
- Organize a parent-worker meeting at your centre. Get the support of your staff and parents for these demands. Action Day Care can send a speaker to the meeting.
- Organize a meeting of your organization to explain the Direct Grant Campaign and its importance for day care.
- Endorse the campaign and rally by completing and returning to Action Day Care the form below.
- Donate generously to the campaign. Producing pamphlets and information is expensive. Action Day Care is a volunteer organization, dependent on your assistance.
- Come to any Action Day Care meeting on **Sept. 10, or 24, or Oct. 8, or 15, 1981** at 8 p.m. at 19 Carr Street, Toronto (corner of Carr and Denison Street, entrance on Denison).
- Call Action Day Care at 362-1033 and find out what you can do.

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## Endorsement:

I/We ..... endorse the  
direct grant campaign as outlined above. You are ..... / You are not .....  
welcome to use my/our name on literature pertaining to this campaign.  
Address ..... Phone .....  
Enclosed: Cheque ..... Cash .....