

# what is the direct grant ?

ACTION DAY CARE is committed to the idea of free, universal day care. We have developed a platform which suggests that day care centres offering a wide range of services be based on a hub model and be available to all young children and their families. We know that such changes require new policy to be formulated at the national level which would make dollars for a wide range of day care services available to the provinces. All this will take time...

Right now we have average salaries of less than \$10,000 per year and fees ranging from \$2,600 to \$6,400 a year. Day care workers can no longer subsidize the service. We need to address ourselves to where the money for decent salaries will come from. Most full fee paying parents would not be able to afford significant increases in their day care fees. Already many families cannot afford the cost of day care but are not eligible for subsidy. At the same time we do not wish to do anything that will compromise our struggle for day care available for EVERY child regardless of 'need' according to welfare indicators.

It is imperative to find a mechanism to directly fund day care centres to both provide for improved salaries and reduce parent fees. The DIRECT GRANT would accomplish this without affecting present funding arrangements for subsidized spaces. It would not involve municipal funds or require changes in the Canada Assistance Plan.

## HOW WOULD A DIRECT PROVINCIAL GRANT WORK?

The provincial government would pay a grant of \$5.00 per day for every child enrolled in a licensed group or supervised family home day care, whether or not the child's parents are subsidized. Half-day programs would receive \$2.50 per day. Infants and toddlers would receive \$8.00 per day. These direct funds would not be contingent on local government's initiative, involvement or dollars. Nor would they be conditional upon the determination of social or economic need of those using the spaces. The grants would come directly from the Province to individual centres and agencies. 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.

The direct grant to non-profit centres would not interfere with or contravene the Province's agreements with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan. The present cost-sharing arrangements for parent subsidies and capital cost grants would continue between all three levels of government. The provincial government would pay for the total cost except for 14% which could be claimed back from the federal government.

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.

The Direct Grant Programme would receive money based on the number of children enrolled and not on their ability to meet requirements of welfare 'means' tests. This would both allow for a substantial increase in day care workers' salaries and reduce, or at least stabilize, parent fees.



# Day Care Crisis!

## fight for the Direct Grant & more spa

Ontario's children desperately need immediate changes in the day care system:

- \* There simply are not enough spaces. Waiting lists far exceed the need for all forms of day care.
- \* Day care workers are still earning poverty-level salaries which average less than \$10,000 a year. That's a disgrace.
- \* Day care fees range from \$2,600 to \$6,400 per year and most working parents are not eligible for a subsidy. It's not affordable.
- \* Even when new day care centres do get started, there is the additional burden of organizational costs, equipment, supplies and renovations. There is no government provision for this necessary expense.

THEREFORE, WE DEMAND:

1. Direct grants to non-profit day care centres (group and family day care programmes) of \$5.00 per day for every child enrolled. Half-day programmes would receive \$2.50 per day, per child; infant/toddler programmes would receive \$8.00. These direct provincial grants, sometimes known as flat or maintenance grants, would be in addition to existing day care subsidies. They would not affect or interfere with present funding arrangements, but would provide a way to get money directly to centres that could be applied to upgrading workers' salaries and also to reducing or stabilizing parent fees.
2. Creation of 10,000 new subsidized day care spaces before January, 1982.
3. 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!

\*Participate in the "PHONE DREA TODAY" campaign this summer. Telephone Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services at 965-2341 and your own MPP. Tell them what your demands are.

\*Organize a parent-worker meeting at your centre. Get their support for these demands. Action Day Care can send a speaker to the meeting

\*Action Day Care is sponsoring a demonstration in October at Queen's Park. Help is needed now to make it successful.

\*COME TO ACTION DAY CARE'S NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 27, 1981, 8 p.m. at 19 Carr Street, Toronto. OR CALL ACTION DAY CARE at 362-1033 and find out what you can do.



# PHONE DREA TODAY!!

## (965-2341)

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 harrass the politicians for more. Action Day Care is launching the "PHONE DREA TODAY" campaign this summer, so that by fall, Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services, will have no doubt what the demands of parents and workers are.

### SOME POINTS TO MAKE WHEN YOU PHONE:

<u>Our Demands</u>	<u>Why</u>
1. Direct grants to every child in a non-profit day care centre or agency, at the following rates: \$5 for pre-schoolers; \$8 for infants/toddlers; and \$2.50 for children in part-time care.	Day-care workers earn less than \$10,000 a year. Parents cannot afford higher fees (they're already paying \$50 to 120 a week), so the only way fees can be reduced and wages increased is by the government making a direct grant to each centre.
2. Creation of 10,000 new subsidized day care spaces, as an immediate, short-term measure.	269,000 mothers are in the work-force with children under 5, yet there are only 17,000 full-time subsidized day care spaces. Clearly it's not enough.
3. Provision of start-up funds of \$100 per child for each new centre.	Even if day care centres are able to get started, paying high fees and low wages, where do they get the money for equipping and supplying their centres and other miscellaneous costs associated with start-up. Right now, nowhere. The government should assist.

TELEPHONE FRANK DREA - 965-2341 - TODAY AND COMMUNICATE THIS MESSAGE.  
ALSO, PHONE YOUR LOCAL MPP WITH THE SAME MESSAGE.  
CALL ACTION DAY CARE IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR LOCAL MPP IS, WE WILL TRY AND HELP.

ACTION DAY CARE  
362-1033  
19 Carr Street  
Toronto, Ontario.