

REPORT OF THE PRESENTATION OF DAYCARE DEADLINE: 1990
TO PREMIER DAVIS AND CABINET MEMBERS, NOVEMBER 9, 1981

The Ontario Federation of Labour together with members of the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare presented the brief Daycare Deadline: 1990 to Premier William Davis and members of the Cabinet on November 9, 1981. Davis' response to the brief was sympathetic but with no real commitments. He said he would have no disagreements with us on the need and desirability of daycare. Clearly how much and how soon is another story. He said the government would look into two areas that were put forward in the brief: the matter of changing the jurisdiction of daycare from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to the Ministry of Education; and the proposal for a task force to initiate pilot projects to ascertain how specific needs can best be met. On the latter proposal however, he said he would be in favour of this only if the task force would look into alternatives besides those presented in the brief.

The only Cabinet Minister who responded was Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services. His response ended up being a low-key rebuttal to the proposals in the brief. He said the government was looking at alternatives to the present daycare structure, but he did not get specific. The following are several points he mentioned which seem to be part of possible alternatives; parents need to be involved; there should be a less rigidly structured provision of care; special needs of handicapped children; retention of the needs test - subsidized spaces must be available for those who need it most; collective bargaining for daycare; need for a broad public education program. He was negative

on the direct grant since it is for all and would therefore in his opinion benefit middle income earners and not those who need it most.

The overall sense we were left with after this exchange, is that the government is tending to move in very different directions from those in the brief. There is recognition that daycare has become a social issue that must be addressed, but no willingness at all to move towards universal accessibility. Rather family care providers and profit-making daycare operations will continue to be a large part of the system, as well as parent fees. There may be some provision of more spaces, but we expect too little too late. All in all it was the typical response of Davis' brand of conservatism - give just enough on social issues to keep the Wolves at bay, but maintain the status quo as much as possible, and never change the system.

The lobby of MPP's afterwards was an extremely useful and educational exercise. Lobbyists were placed in groups of three or four and given four MPP's from various parties to lobby. The intent was to give the member a copy of the brief, outline the main points, get some sense of their support or non-support, and thereby lay the groundwork for these same members being lobbied in their own constituencies by the local daycare coalitions. Each group reported on the responses of their members at a meeting held immediately after the lobby. Four groups did not report back (i.e. 16 members). Individual responses are given very briefly in the attached summary.

The New Democratic Party was the most supportive - 12 out of 13 lobbied supported all the points in the brief. Many were knowledgeable on the issue, and stated that it was NDP policy. Four NDP members were not available to meet with lobbyists.

Liberal responses were much more mixed. Responses ran the gamut from interest and support (six) to non-committal (8) to downright negative (2). There was no sense of party policy. Concerns were raised around costs, and who should provide care (e.g. employers, private homes). Ten liberals did not make themselves available for the lobbyists.

There was also a variety of opinions among the Conservatives, with the majority being either non-committal or negative (14) and four (4) being supportive. There seemed to be a tendency to tow the government line, although several conservative members went well beyond that by dredging up the old saw that a woman's place is in the home. Several were negative on the direct grant, and several were supportive of the idea of a task force. Thirty-one (31) did not make themselves available to the lobbyists, including Barlow who kept lobbyists waiting an hour and then never did meet with them; Wells who needed three weeks notice before a meeting; McLean who ran past lobbyists who tried to approach him and Kells who would not speak to lobbyists since they weren't from Humber.

In conclusion, neither the Conservatives nor Liberals have a clear position on the issues, the response to the direct grant is primarily negative except from the NDP, some additional spaces may be coming, and the task force will be discussed in Cabinet.

opeiu:343

Shelley Acheson
Ontario Federation of Labour

CONSERVATIVE RESPONSES TO LOBBY

Ernie Eves (Parry Sound)

- was concerned that the \$5 direct grant would go to those who already can afford daycare

Ogie Villeneuve (Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry)

- represents a rural area with traditional family structure and extended family supports; concerned about the number of young unmarried women in his riding who have young children.

John Williams (Oriole, Parliamentary Asst. to the Minister of Revenue)

- concerned that universal daycare would allow moms to opt out of their responsibility to nurture children; would not support \$5 direct grant, but felt that more spaces could be supported.

Andy Watson (Chatham-Kent, Parl. Asst. to the Minister of Community and Social Services)

- agreed that parents should be ultimate responsibility for education of young children; said the direct grant would give assistance to sons of Trudeau and Clark, not to those who most needed it; discussion degenerated into problem of people on social services ripping off the welfare system.

Margaret Scrivener (St. David)

- supports hub model and more spaces but not on government money - rather we should be original and inventive, e.g. use women volunteers

Russell Ramdry (Secretary for Resources Development)

- supportive of daycare but not knowledgeable; supports task force; has no constituents on daycare waiting list.

Jim Gordon (Sudbury, Parl. Asst. to the Minister of Health)

- seemed to understand problem, agreed there is change in society; supportive of task force; said he would read brief and get back to them.

Michael Harris (Nipissing)

- reached by telephone; said he would read brief and get back to them.

Jim Pollock, (Hastings-Peterborough)

- sympathetic but will vote against - believes daycare should be funded by municipality.

Bruce McCaffrey (Armourdale, Minister without Portfolio)

- agrees there is need for daycare, but there are problems with priorities; approves of task force - would like to head it; not an issue in his riding.

Terry Jones (Mississauga North, Parl. Asst. to Minister of Treasury and Economics)

- supports in essence, but questioned cost; will discuss it in caucus.

Phil Gillies (Brantford, Parl. Asst. to the Secretary to Social Development)

- quite positive and supportive; would pursue task force in legislature; willing to meet labour council and interested groups in his riding.

William Hodgson (York North, Parl. Asst. to the Minister of Government Services)

- thinks most parents neglect kids and live beyond their means.

Larry Grossman (St. Andrew-St. Patrick, Minister of Industry & Tourism)

- says we should keep up the pressure; there is pressure on the PC's to tow the government line; holds "dinner" yearly with daycare people; is aware of need in his constituency; negative on task force.

Bud Gregory (Mississauga East, Minister without Portfolio)

- very negative, does not believe in subsidized care; said he will agree with whatever Drea says.

Mickey Hennessy (Fort William, Parl. Asst. to Minister of Northern Affairs)

- believes there should be better wages and daycare in schools.

Don Cousens (York Centre)

- maybe on task force.

Gordon Walker (London South, Prov. Sec. for Justice & Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations)

- doesn't meddle in other Minister's jurisdiction (i.e. Drea's).

UNAVAILABLE CONSERVATIVES

Roy McMurtry (in Edmonton) (Eglinton)

Lorne C. Henderson, Minister of Agriculture & Food (Lambton)

Robert C. Mitchell (in Ottawa, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary
(Carlton) for Justice and Minister of Consumer & Commercial
Relations

Robert W. Runciman, Leeds

Reuben Baetz (Ottawa West)

Claude Bennett, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing (Ottawa South)

Bill Barlow, Cambridge (lobbyists waited one hour to see him while he
was on phone - never did get to see him)

Robert Welch, Minister of Energy (Brock)

Thomas L. Wells, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (lobbyists told
(Scarborough North) they would need 3 weeks notice to see Wells)

Richard Treleaven, Oxford (would respond by letter (see attached)

Ross Stevenson, Durham York (lobbyists made appt. to see him but when
they returned he was not available)

Yuri Shymko, High Park-Swansea (lobbyists missed him due to time taken
with another MPP)

George Taylor, Simcoe Centre

David Rotenberg, Wilson Heights, Asst. to Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Howard Sheppard, Northumberland

Allan McLean, Simcoe East (ran past lobbyists who tried to approach him)

Ronald McNeil, Elgin, Parl. Asst. to the Minister of Agriculture & Food

Rene Piche, Cochrane North

Robert Eaton, Middlesex, Parl. Asst. to the Minister of Transportation and
and Communications

Frank S. Miller, Minister of Treasury and Economics (Muskoka)

George McCague, Dufferin-Simcoe, Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet

George Kerr, Burlington South

Nicholas Lebuk, Minister of Correctional Services, York West

Robert Macquarrie, Carleton East, Parl. Asst. to the Solicitor-General

UNAVAILABLE (continued)

Morley Kells, Humber (would not speak to lobbyists since they weren't
from Humber)

John Lane, Algoma-Manitoulin, Parl. Asst. to the Minister of Industry
and Tourism

Al Kolyn, Lakeshore

Jack Johnson, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel

Susan Fish, St. George, Parl. Asst. to the Minister of Culture & Recreation

Edward Havrot, Temiskaming

Leo Bernier, Kenora, Minister of Northern Affairs (saw his assistant
who doesn't think Northern Ontario has daycare
problems)

Alan Pope .

LIBERAL RESPONSES TO LOBBY

Robert Nixon (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk)

- supportive at first but waffled at the end as to who would bear the cost

Gordon Miller (Haldimand-Norfolk)

- mothers are the best persons to look after their children.

Hugh Edighoffer, (Perth)

- knew nothing, non-responsive to issue, was getting no pressure from constituents.

Murray Elston (Huron Bruce) Shellagh Copps

- receptive, asked for facts and figures so they can question in Legislature.

Jack Riddell (Huron-Middlesex)

- says he and his party will support.

Jim Bradley (St. Catharines)

- fairly receptive - says Smith has spoken favourably - will raise the issue in caucus - not a concern in his riding - task force better than select committee.

James Breithaupt (Kitchener)

- non-committal

Harry Worton (Wellington South)

- sympathetic but not knowledgeable - he feels basic problem is poor status given to childcare workers.

Richard Ruston (Essex North)

- non-committal

John Sweeney (Kitchener-Wilmot)

- agrees to immediate need - but very concerned about word "universal"

David Peterson (London Centre)

- favourable to daycare but feels it is responsibility of employer - would back task force.

Robert McKessock (Grey)

- non-committal, concerned about funding.

Vince Kerrio (Niagara Falls)

- supports concept and his party will .

John Eakins (Victoria-Haliburton)

- supports daycare - his daughter has to leave daycare field because of poor wages.

Ray Haggerty (Erie)

- supports further study - possibly the task force, seemed to prefer private home care.

Eric Cunningham (Wentworth North)

- sees problems with task force (takes time with no results).

UNAVAILABLE

Tony Ruprecht - his assistant said he was very supportive. (Parkdale)

Albert Roy (Ottawa East)

Julian Reed (Halton-Burlington)

Hugh O'Neil (Quinte)

Herbert Epp (Waterloo North)

Bernard Newman (Windsor-Walkerville)

James McGuigan (Kent-Elgin)

Earl McEwen (Frontenac-Addington)

Remo Mancini (Essex South)

Sean Conway (Renfrew North)

NDP RESPONSES TO LOBBY

Donald MacDonald (York South)

- fully conversant, fully supportive.

Marion Bryden, (Beaches-Woodbine)

- fully supportive and knowledgeable; will send Drea's response to 1980 initiatives and estimates for Drea's Ministry to organizers; she asked questions in the Legislature during Question Period on November 9.

Bud Wildman, (Algoma)

- supportive, will confirm by letter.

Mel Swart, (Welland-Thorold)

- fully supportive.

Ed Philip (Etobicoke)

- supportive; would support select committee rather than task force.

Elie Martel (Sudbury East)

- supportive.

Robert Mackenzie (Hamilton East)

- supportive; questioned task force, felt more lobbying would be better approach.

Tony Lupusella (Dovercourt)

- would make no commitments.

Floyd Laughren (Nickel Belt)

- sympathetic.

Tony Grande, (Oakwood)

- supportive, proposed private members bill on daycare; critical issue in his riding because there is no daycare; believes in educative value of daycare.

Jim Foulds, (Port Arthur)

- very supportive, gave them NDP policy on daycare.

Brian Charlton (Hamilton Mountain)

- supportive, has brought it up in Legislature.

David Cooke (Windsor-Riverside)

- the most immediate problem right now in Windsor is unemployment (28%)

Mike Breaugh (Oshawa)

- knowledgeable, supportive of task force; felt it is important to keep public awareness high.

UNAVAILABLE

George Samis, Cornwall (in Cornwall)

Michael Cassidy (in Ottawa) spoke to an assistant who supports the
(Ottawa Centre) direct grant and the task force; feels daycare
should be integrated with the workplace.

Ross McClellan (out of town) (Bellwoods)

Richard Johnston (Scarborough-West)

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PRESS CLIPPING
CORNWALL ONT.
STANDARD-FREEHOLDER
D. - Circ. 14-15,000

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PRESS CLIPPING
Kitchener-Waterloo Reg.
Newspaper, Ont.
D. Circ. 72,000

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TORONTO, ONTARIO
The Globe & Mail
D. Circ. 264,909

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Universal day care requested in brief

TORONTO (CP) — Within 10 years, all pre-school children should have the right to attend universally accessible day care just as all older children have the right to attend public schools, says a brief to the Ontario Teachers' Federation, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women, and the Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers.

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The Sudbury Star
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10,000 daycare opening sought across Ontario

TORONTO (CP) — A coalition of labor, education and women's groups demanding expanded daycare facilities got a brief to Premier William Davis when it met with the Ontario Premier's Council for Early Childhood Education.



BILL DAVIS

CLIFF PILKEY

Day-care group gets sympathy but no commitment from Davis

A coalition of Ontario labor, education and women's groups demanding expanded day-care facilities has got a sympathetic ear but no commitments from Premier William Davis. The Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, which represents 18 associations and unions, presented a brief to the Ontario Cabinet yesterday calling for universally accessible day care by 1990, immediate creation of 10,000 subsidized day-care spaces and a Government study on day-care needs. "I don't quarrel with the general tenor of the brief," Mr. Davis said. "You're not going to get any argument from me about the need for day care. But I can't guarantee you that we can meet the full effect of the brief by 1990. Our problem in government is to determine what the priorities are and what percentage of the budget should be allocated," said Mr. Davis, who listened along with eight of his Cabinet ministers to the coalition's demands. Clifford Pilkey, president of the Ontario Federation of Labor Unions, said the need for both parents to hold down jobs has changed the traditional nature of the family and increased demand for day care. "Levels of government funding are totally inadequate. What is required is a massive increase in funding and a universally accessible day-care system. The coalition, which collected about 200 submissions from interested groups during the past six months, criticized the means test applied to applicants for subsidized day care and recommended a \$5-a-day subsidy for all day-care spaces in non-profit centres. But Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services, said the kind of across-the-board subsidy recommended by the coalition would provide money to those with average incomes instead of those who need it most. In defending the current expenditures of his ministry, Mr. Drea said: "Virtually everyone here wants tax cuts. You just can't have it both ways." Doreen Gordon, president of the Ontario branch of the Association for Early Childhood Education, said day-care workers should be unionized and paid "on a par with teachers who have equivalent training and experience." The coalition also said parents should get financial support to stay at home with their children and legislation should be enacted to provide extended paid maternity and paternity leave. It also urged the creation of neighborhood day-care centres on the same basis as elementary schools.

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purposes and legislation enacted to provide for extended paid maternity and paternity leave. It also urged the creation of neighborhood group daycare centres — created on the same basis as elementary schools. About 200 members of the coalition represented the interests of labor, education and women's groups.

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Day care is a social need -- unionist

Since the turn of the century, the number of women in the labor force has quadrupled. More than half the adult females in Canada are now working outside the home, and many have joined unions, which are paying more attention than ever to "women's issues."



ED FINN
Opinion on Labor

The four main issues of concern to women are day care, job discrimination, maternity leave, and sexual harassment — probably in that order. If a woman with children under school age can't arrange to have them looked after during the day, she can't even begin to look for a job. Once she starts looking, she may be denied the kind of job she wants, and is qualified for, by employers who discriminate against women.

Higher priorities

Then, even after she lands a job, she may be refused adequate maternity leave, or be denied promotion because she won't submit to sexual harassment. Unions — especially those with large numbers of female members — have started giving a higher priority to these four problems in recent years, often with the support of women's groups and social welfare agencies.

Most of the emphasis, though, has been on the need for more and better day care, which is seen as the No. 1 issue for women in the 1980s. A strong and vocal coalition, spearheaded by the Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL), has been beating the day-care drum for the past year or so. The coalition recently presented a brief to the Ontario cabinet demanding universally accessible day-care services for all pre-school children in the province. It set forth a 10-year timetable for achieving that goal. Public reaction has been to put it mildly mixed. The government, of course, says it would be too costly. Other critics contend that families, other than those in poverty, should pay for and find their own day-care facilities. Some married women who have chosen to stay home and rear their children seem to resent the expenditure of their taxes to pay for day care of working women's children.

These attitudes stem from long-held assumptions about family life that no longer apply. The concept of the "typical" family, with the husband working and the wife staying at home with the kids, is now obsolete. So is the notion that, because you have children, it's your responsibility alone to look after them.

Changing families

The typical family today is more likely to be one in which both parents work, whether through choice or necessity; or a single-parent family; or an unmarried couple with children. Only one family in 10 still fits the old-fashioned image. The argument that day-care services for working women shouldn't be subsidized by people without children, or by families in which the mother stays home, doesn't stand up to scrutiny. It's basically the same kind of opposition advanced against other universal social security programs — that they should be financed only by those who use them. But it is clearly beneficial for society as a whole to have Medicare, to have a public pension plan, and to have unemployment insurance.

The same is true for day care. The Metro Toronto Social Services department did a study. It found that every dollar spent on day care saved more than \$2 in welfare costs, if it enabled a woman to work.

Unions and women's organizations now refer to the day-care issue as being in a crisis, because so fragmented, inconsistent, inadequate and underfunded. Only 5 per cent of children under the age of 2 with mothers in the labor force are in approved family day care. Most nations in Europe are ahead of us. In France, for example, 95 per cent of children aged 3 to 6 attend free pre-school programs.

"Our country is virtually a standstill in meeting day-care needs," says the OFL. "The struggle for day care in the 1980s is no less important than the earlier struggle for public education."

But it's not just a "women's issue" any more. It's a growing, urgent social need whose continued neglect can only spawn more unemployment, more child abuse, more broken homes, more juvenile delinquency, more welfare, and more social unrest. Day care is now a social need.

Day care

TORONTO (CP) — Within 10 years, all pre-school children should have the right to attend universally accessible day care just as all older children have the right to attend public schools, says a brief to the Ontario cabinet. The brief, written by 18 labor, education and social groups, said day-care centres should be located in neighborhoods, just as elementary school work much of full quality there system vated nursing drop already quant fac