

# CHILD CARE CHALLENGE



NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE



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## Child Care Reform - It's Happening Now!

On February 17, 1992, the provincial government released its consultation paper Child Care Reform in Ontario: Setting the Stage. This was followed by the announcement of a series of public consultations to be held across Ontario between April 3 and June 23 of this year. Child care reform is being discussed by community members, child care advocates, teachers, child care providers, and many others. For a listing of the remaining consultations, see page 8.

### **What is Child Care Reform?**

The development of a high quality, publicly-funded, non-profit, universal child care system has been the goal of child care advocates for many years. Setting the Stage is the recognition by the government that such a system is necessary. The provincial government must decide what such a child care system would, in practical terms, look like. Setting the Stage outlines the four main areas where reform must take place: in the provision of high quality care, making child care affordable, fully accessible, and ensuring the system is soundly managed. For a more detailed look at the contents of Setting the Stage, see page 3.

### **Should I Care About Child Care Reform?**

Child care reform is important to all of us, for a number of reasons. Child care workers will benefit from improved wages and working conditions. Child care programs would receive stable funding, and could focus on the delivery of a high quality program, rather than constantly looking for funding to operate. Children would benefit from high quality programs designed to meet their needs, and the needs of the community.

Parents need high quality care for their children while they are at work, or attending school to upgrade their employment skills. This allows men and women to be a productive part of Ontario's economy, and furthers economic renewal. And having a skilled, productive workforce benefits all of us.

### **What Can I Do?**

On page 6 you'll find a piece called "Where Do I Go From Here?". It suggests a number of ways you can participate in the child care reform process. It also tells you what to expect at the hearings. The important thing is to do just that - participate. If we participate, we can make child care reform a reality.

#### **THE CHALLENGE**

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Published quarterly by the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care and distributed to members and subscribers.

### **Setting the Stage: How the Government Views Reform**

The public consultation paper Setting the Stage is broken down into four sections. The first is an introduction which discusses the concept of child care as an essential public service, as opposed to a charitable one. It lays out the four principles which will guide child care reform: that child care services must be high quality, affordable, accessible, and soundly managed.

The second section provides a brief overview of the current state of child care in Ontario. This is followed by a more detailed look at the four main principles of reform, a brief discussion of why the system must be a non-profit one, and the placing of child care reform in the larger context of social services and education.

Section Three returns to the four principles of reform and individually examines the specific issues to consider which impact on the particular reform principle being discussed. This is followed by a series of questions which need to be answered during the consultation process.

Finally, the paper looks at how we can become involved in the child care reform process.

#### **Setting the Stage: Child Care Services Now in Ontario**

- \* Child care is not available to most families in Ontario.
- \* Child care is not affordable for many families.
- \* The quality of Ontario's regulated child care is still inconsistent.

#### **Setting the Stage: Proposed Directions for Child Care Reform**

##### Quality

- \* Create consistent standards that ensure quality.
- \* Promote developmentally appropriate programs that are delivered by trained and qualified staff.
- \* Directly fund those services that are regulated.
- \* Expand the network of child care resource centres in neighbourhoods.
- \* Provide parents and the public with information.

##### Management

- \* Clearly define provincial and local responsibilities and roles.
- \* Ensure that child care is accountable to children, parents, and taxpayers.
- \* Continue to provide provincial leadership to child care.
- \* Develop local management capabilities which ensure that service planning includes community participation.
- \* Ensure that responsibility for allocation is tied to other management responsibilities for planning, delivering, and monitoring child care services.

##### Accessibility

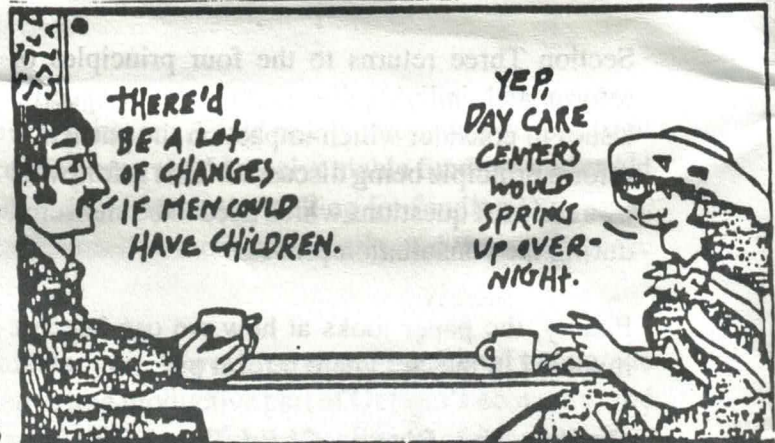
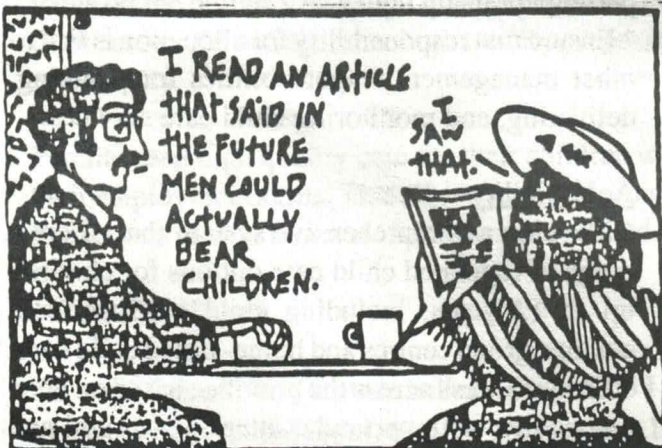
- \* Develop a comprehensive system that offers a range of regulated child care options for children up to 12 years, including child care resource centres, group centres and home-based child care.
- \* Ensure access across the province based on need and equity, with particular attention to rural and northern areas.
- \* Strengthen the links between core child care services and other children's services such as education, recreation, health, housing, and social services.

## CHILD CARE REFORM

- \* Continue to provide base funding for child care resource centres.
- \* Promote new community-based child care services and maintain existing services.
- \* Improve the capacity of all child care programs to respond to children with "special needs", broadly defined.
- \* Provide programs that reflect and respect Ontario's diverse society.
- \* Provide programs in Francophone communities that reflect linguistic and cultural heritage.
- \* Ensure that aboriginal communities determine the direction of their own child care programs and services in the context of current discussions on self-government.

### Funding

- \* Provide base funding directly to non-profit, regulated child care centres and home based child care services to stabilise programs.
- \* Ensure that base funding of programs promotes fair wages and working conditions for staff.
- \* Encourage programs to provide more flexible services.
- \* Develop a new way of determining parental contributions to child care services.
- \* Maximise cost-sharing with the federal government.



**The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care Responds to  
Setting the Stage.**

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) has long advocated for many of the reforms outlined in the government's consultation paper. The Coalition recognises that Setting the Stage is a significant breakthrough for child care. The document represents a conceptual shift from the traditional notion that child care should be a market driven/welfare service for which individual families have almost sole responsibility. Rather, the government proposes a shift to a child care system supported by public funding and accessible to all who need it.

The OCBCC has produced a response which supports the course outlined in Setting the Stage, and which makes recommendations for specific directions and strategies.

**The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care recommends:**

1. That the Province adopt a principle that all children and families are entitled to appropriate child care within a comprehensive, universally accessible system.
2. That the Province provide full base funding for child care services and establish a mechanism for standardized budget guidelines.
3. That a maximum parent contribution be established with a sliding scale geared to family income.
4. That the current municipal role in cost-sharing be eliminated.
5. That the Ontario government should press to include child care in any constitutional negotiations leading to a Social Charter.
6. That the Province use its power at the Constitutional bargaining table to defend existing social programs and to initiate new ones. At the same time, it proposes that the Province move ahead with its plans to reform child care in Ontario.

## CHILD CARE REFORM

7. That there be a range of child care services including centre-based programs, regulated home child care services and child care resource centres. These programs should reflect the special concerns of aboriginal, francophone and other cultural communities, rural and isolated communities, and families with special needs children.
8. That funding for commercial programs currently operating and who choose not to convert be phased out over the next five years.
9. That if the cornerstone of the child care system should be quality, then The Day Nurseries Act be thoroughly reviewed and updated.
10. That training requirements be established for all staff working in regulated child care programs.
11. That salaries and working conditions reflect pay equity adjustments, employment equity and provision for adequate support staff.
12. That parental and family responsibility leaves be strengthened and legislated.
13. A management structure which will support a directly funded system.



## CHILD CARE REFORM

### WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

Are you wondering what you can do to help further child care reform? Here are some suggestions:

#### **ATTEND THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS**

The provincial government is holding public hearings on child care reform. You can make your concerns heard by getting on the speakers list. To get on the speakers list for the remaining consultations contact your local Area Office. (See listing page 9.)

For the locations of these consultations, and other updates, you can call the following toll-free numbers:

1-800-668-4688 (English)

1-800-565-4688 (French)

#### **MAKING A PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

You don't have to prepare a major report - a few focused remarks set down on paper is all you need. You will have between 5 and 10 minutes to make your presentation to the panel.

Tell your stories - how as a parent, supervisor, child care provider etc. the existing system doesn't work. If possible, focus on one aspect that has caused you problems, and how one of the recommended reforms would solve that problem.

Don't worry about numbers and statistics. The government needs to hear how those numbers translate into the reality of your experience.

List your main points **IN EXTRA LARGE PRINT** so it is easy to read even if you are nervous.

Write or type your presentation, and turn it in to the designated recorder when you are finished. A written presentation adds impact to your comments - it ensures your views are still there to be referred to even if you are not.

**REMEMBER** - If you do not pre-register, it is highly unlikely you will be able to speak. Having speakers who support reform is critical to the reform process moving forward. So make sure you call the Ministry contact in your area, and get on the list.

**MORE . . . .**

## CHILD CARE REFORM

### **\* LOBBY YOUR MPP!**

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care is lobbying MPPs to let them know our position on child care reform. You can participate by contacting Evelyn Napier at the Coalition office (416) 538-0628. You can also send letters to local politicians, or call their offices to let them know how you feel about child care reform. The OCBCC or your local Coalition contact can provide you with model letters you can use as a guide to producing your own.

### **\* SEND IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE PARENT'S NEWSPAPER**

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is producing The Parent's Newspaper as a guide to child care reform. Take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire in the back and send it in.

In addition the Ministry of Community and Social Services will accept written submissions on Child Care Reform until June 30, 1992. If you could not attend the hearing in your area, write the Ministry and tell them your thoughts on child care reform. Send your letters to:

Child Care Reform Consultation  
Child Care Branch  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
30th Floor, 2 Bloor Street West  
Toronto Ontario  
M7A 1E9

If you have questions concerning the above, or would like further information about child care reform, contact Evelyn Napier at the Coalition office (416-538-0628).

### **\* WRITE YOUR LOCAL PAPER**

And your local television and radio stations! Again, the Coalition can provide model letters if you wish. The more letters the media gets, the more difficult it is for them to ignore child care reform. Most people don't think an issue is "real" unless they see it in the news. We need to put child care reform in the news!



## CHILD CARE REFORM



### Child Care Reform Public Consultations

Tuesday, June 2	Barrie - Rowntree Theatre, Georgian College
Wednesday June 3	Owen Sound - Location TBA
Tuesday June 9	Hawkesbury - French - Location TBA
Wednesday June 10	Belleville - Location TBA
Tuesday June 16	Sault Ste. Marie - Location TBA
Wednesday June 17	Metro Toronto East - Isabella Walton Child Care Centre, Birchmount and Eglinton
Tuesday June 23	Metro Toronto - French - Location TBA

### Child Care Reform - Area Office Contacts

Metro Toronto: Michael Bates - 416-325-0600

Hamilton: Trudy Battaglio - 416-521-7280

Waterloo: Tracey Robertson - 519-886-4700

Barrie: Catherine Lauten - 705-737-1311

Windsor: Bryan Chambers - 519-254-1651

## Workshops Across Ontario - The OCBCC and Child Care Reform

The OCBCC recognised the difficulties facing child care workers, parents, non-profit boards of directors and others who, with the release of Setting the Stage, wished to take part in the consultation process. The complexity of the issue, the wide-ranging nature of the discussion, and the brief time-frame between the release of the paper and the opening of public consultations only seven weeks later made it very difficult for the many sectors affected to be involved.

As a result, the Coalition proceeded to organise a series of workshops to facilitate participation in the public consultations. The workshops were designed to provide an overview of the main points in Setting the Stage, as well as look at the Coalition's response. There was opportunity for discussion as well as an information package presented on how to get involved in the hearings.

In all, twelve workshops were held. Areas visited included Sudbury, Toronto, North York, Waterloo, Sarnia, and Ottawa. The Sudbury and Coburg workshops resulted not only in a commitment by participants to actively involve themselves in the reform process, but also the formation of new local child care coalitions. As well, the OCBCC workshop was presented during the annual forum of the Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee. Held in Thunder Bay, the forum brought together child care advocates from across northwestern Ontario, and provided an excellent opportunity for the Coalition to promote involvement in child care reform.

Workshop participants raised a variety of questions. An area which provoked vigorous debate was the question of management. If the municipi-

palities will no longer be cost-sharing child care with the province, then what would their involvement be? How should responsibilities be divided between the municipalities and the province? How would funds be delivered and programs administered? As well, child care for rural communities, caregiver education qualifications, and base funding all came up for discussion.

The workshops also provided the OCBCC an opportunity to hear feedback concerning the Coalition's response to child care reform. The OCBCC draft response was strengthened, thanks to the input of workshop participants.

With the conclusion of its workshop series, the OCBCC has focused its energies on mobilisation for the reform consultations. As well, the Coalition is putting forward its time table for reform - a component noticeably absent from the government consultation paper. In calling for a Green Paper on child care reform for September of 1992, legislation for January of 1993, and implementation in January 1994, the Coalition is working to ensure child care reform becomes a reality.



The Daycare Book, Marcia Salo Pizzi

## Child Care Consultations: Ontario-Wide Input on Child Care Reform

From April through June of this year a panel of provincial government representatives has been hearing from the public on child care reform. The panel consists of Chairperson Louise Mauffette-Leenders; Randy Hope, Parliamentary Assistant to MCSS Minister Marion Boyd and MPP for Chatham-Kent; Jane Marlatt, Assistant Deputy Minister with MCSS, and Keith Baird, Special Policy Assistant to the Minister, MCSS.

The panel has heard from a wide variety of representatives in the child care sector. Teachers, trade unions, municipalities, community colleges and ECE programs, Boards of Education, parents, and providers, have been presenting at the hearings.

To date the consultations have heard a variety of proposals concerning reform. The reform process has been welcomed by the majority of participants, and there have been various suggestions as to what a comprehensive child care system might look like. Management, the role of the municipalities, integration with the school system, and staff qualifications have all been key issues. In particular, the suggestion of moving to full base funding has been welcomed. But while there may be debate on how a new system will be structured, the majority of presenters have strongly supported the direction the provincial government has taken.

### ***The Commercial Sector: Turning Forums into Soapboxes***

At the outset of the child care reform consultation process Minister of Community and Social Services Marion Boyd made clear that some decisions concerning reform had already been made. In particular she stated that the decision to expand public funding in the non-profit sector was not up for discussion. Given the extensive nature of re-

form, some policy decisions had to be taken in order to provide the framework within which child care reform could take place. The initiative concerning non-profit child care was one such decision.

However, the commercial sector, led by the Alliance of Day Care Operators (ADCO) has mobilised to use the child care reform hearings as a forum in which to attack the provincial government's initiatives in the non-profit sector.

In London April 3 the opening of the consultations saw ADCO's Judith Preston launch a blistering attack on the government for the announcement of December 2 concerning the wage enhancement grant and funding for the non-profit sector. (See *Child Care Challenge*, Winter 1992.) Commercial owner/operators also turned out in force. As a result, the subject - child care reform - ended up on the back burner. This has continued to be the case at many - though not all - of the hearings.

### ***Report Expected***

A summary report documenting the opinions expressed at the hearings, the responses to the questionnaire in the Parent's Newsletter, and written submissions, will be available from the Ministry's Child Care Branch following the consultations. All the information received throughout the process will be analyzed over the summer and fall of 1992. This policy review will be the framework shaping the government's directions for child care reform and new child care legislation. Child care advocates across the province will be waiting to see how quickly the government will move to implement child care reform.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### WE'RE GROWING!!

#### **NETWORK**

This year membership in the Child Care Network has increased by almost 50% - from 87 programs to over 120. More programs are joining the Network as they hear from satisfied members about the services the Child Care Network has to offer.

The insert in your Newsletter provides information about the many exciting services available through the Child Care Network.

Currently Network representatives are meeting with the government on a regular basis to provide feedback on the various challenges facing the child care sector today. With child care reform firmly on the agenda in Ontario, what better time to combine your voice with others to make your concerns heard?

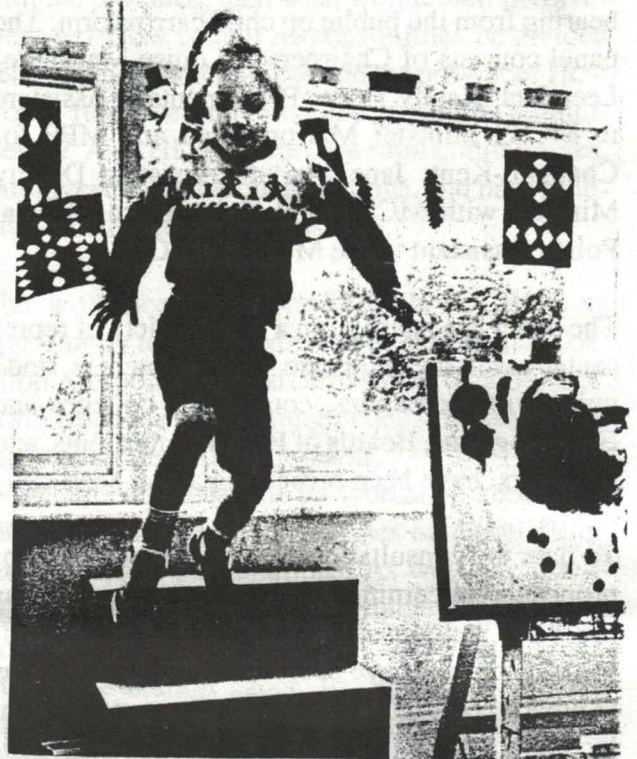
#### **GENERAL COALITION MEMBERS:**

Please note that general membership fees for new members have increased. Current member fees will increase, at the same rate, in 1993.

**YOUR COALITION MEMBERSHIP IS AS IMPORTANT TO US AS IT IS TO YOU!**

**DON'T LOSE OUT, RENEW YOUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP TODAY AND SAVE MONEY!**

Please note that, effective immediately, child care centres can only renew or join the Coalition as a member of The Child Care Network.



**IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER JOINING, YOUR ANNUAL FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

A general membership entitles you to:

- \* a copy of the Coalition's informative and lively quarterly newsletter, Child Care Challenge
- \* reduced rates at conferences, regional forums and workshops
- \* participation in group & individual lobbies. A chance to meet the politicians
- \* Coalition publications
- \* access to the Coalition's resource centre
- \* networking opportunities and information services

## LOCAL LINES

### **North West**

The seventh annual Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee (NWORDCC) Forum convened in Thunder Bay at the Prince Arthur Hotel on March 27 and 28, 1992. The Forum brought together over 100 child care advocates, an increase of one third over attendance last year. Participants from as far away as Big Trout Lake, Marten Falls, and Balmerton attended, representing parents, child care providers administrators, consultants, and community members.

The Forum's focus this year was child care reform in Ontario. Ontario Attorney-General and MPP for Rainy River, Howard Hampton, gave the keynote address at the Forum opening. He introduced the provincial government's child care reform consultation paper Setting the Stage, highlighting the principles on which reform will be based.

Northwestern Ontario representatives had the opportunity to respond directly to child care reform in the Saturday afternoon workshops. NWORDCC Council member Anita Price and OCBCC president Jane Bertrand were resource leaders. Recommendations from the workshops were received at the plenary, and have been included in NWORDCC's written submission to the child care reform consultations. Following the Forum NWORDCC members conducted a phone survey of child care organizations and individual members in Northwestern Ontario, encouraging them to present their concerns and recommendations to the consultations.

As well, a Regional Issues panel discussed barriers to affordable, regulated, quality child care in the region. Ron Stinchcombe of the Thunder Bay Child Care Advisory Committee, Eve Shields,

President of the Board of the Rainbow Day Care Centre in Atikokan, and policy consultant, Margaret Phillips, drew on data from a NWORDCC 1991 survey to identify issues of primary concern to parents and providers of child care. There was also a panel on New Developments in Child Care, which prompted a lively discussion on the relationship of schools and child care centres, bridging qualifications for teachers and ECE graduates, training for aboriginal child care workers, and language immersion in aboriginal centres.

In other regional news, NWORDCC's Barb Lysnes reports that the shut-down of the Domtar Mill in Red Rock means the municipal tax base there is seriously eroded. As a result, the municipality is planning the closure of its child care program as of June 30. Other options to keep the program going are being investigated, but the situation is serious. Says Barb, "This is an example of how the recession is hitting the resource industry towns, which in turn hits child care." Another example of the urgent need for child care reform!

### **Metro Toronto**

The Metro Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care strongly opposed recent cuts to child care programs in Metro Toronto. Deputations were presented at every opportunity, the issues discussed with individual councillors, and the Metro Coalition joined efforts with the Fightback Metro Coalition to fight the cuts to social services.

The initial proposal was to cut a total of \$15-million from Metro's Children's Services budget. Following months of debate and lobbying from parents and staff of child care programs, Metro

## LOCAL LINES

Council reduced the cutbacks by \$3 million. This decision has meant many parents still face fee increases of over 500% which leads some of them to question whether they can still afford to work.

Without a doubt, centres will see some of these parents leave because they cannot afford these fees. This of course, will only exacerbate the under-enrolment problem most centres face leaving programs to deal with potential layoffs and program reductions.

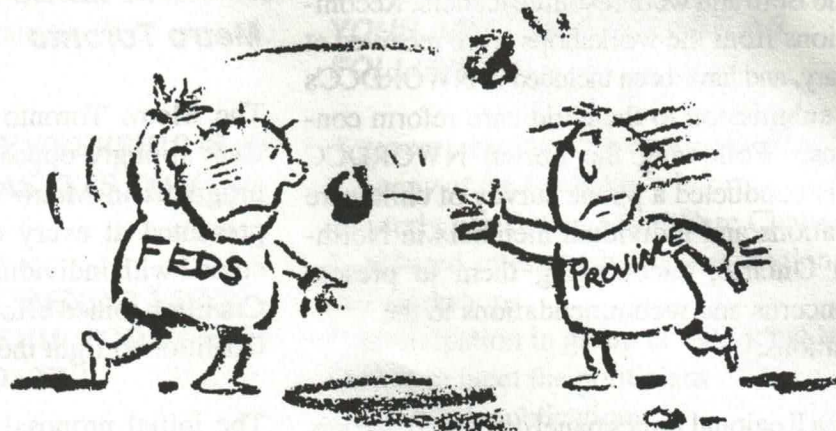
The provincial government refuses to acknowledge its responsibility for providing funding to centres for their actual costs. The shortfall for 1991 was \$13-million. They announced a \$ 10.8-million fund to assist non-profit centres in December which remains inaccessible.

On a lighter note, the Metro Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care held its Annual General Meeting at Deer Park Library on April 30, 1992. This year's meeting was well attended by a cross section of members from across Metro including Etobicoke and North York.

Jamie Kass of CUPE Local 2280 and Jane Bertrand, President of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care provided the membership with an insightful presentation on the ongoing child care reform discussions and pay equity legislation. Issues regarding standardized budget guidelines and appropriate proxy comparators for the purposes of pay equity were addressed.

The complete report of the Annual General Meeting is available by calling the Metro Toronto Coalition office at (416) 538-7630.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF CHILD CARE SERVICES



## LOCAL LINES

### **South East Grey**

Community members in Grey County organized a series of 15 meetings to discuss child care reform. The organizers divided the county into five areas, and held three meetings in each - on Saturday, a weekday, and on an evening. This ensured maximum participation on the part of community members. The meetings, which wrapped up May 23, were also designed to encourage broader community participation beyond the child care sector. School boards, women's groups, anti-poverty organizations, and many others were all involved.

A summary of the discussions will be submitted to the child care reform consultation to be held in Owen Sound on June 3rd. As well, South East Grey Community Outreach (SEGCO) and others will be presenting on the 3rd. Says SEGCO's Carol Gott: "The community response has been very positive, and we've heard lots of interesting ideas. This has provided all of us with a much clearer vision for rural child care and how that vision can be realised through child care reform."

On a more sombre note, South East Grey has seen municipal cutbacks similar to what has taken place in Metro Toronto. "We're struggling just to maintain existing services" says Gott. Once again, this is a demonstration of the urgent need for immediate implementation of child care reform.

### **Ottawa**

Child care advocates in the Ottawa-Carleton region have also been busy with child care reform. On April 28 the Ottawa-Carleton Child Care Association (OCCCA -formerly the Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Assoc.) along with the Ontario

Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) sponsored a professional development day on child care reform. Over 100 child care advocates attended. The panel featured Al Loney, chair of the Social Services Committee of the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Council, parent Morna Ballentyne, Trish Bainham of the Ministry of Community and Social services, and OCBCC Executive Director Kerry McCuaig.

As well, CUPE Local 2204 held a one-and-a-half-day executive meeting to discuss child care reform. Over 40 staff from child care programs met with the executive on the issue. The Ottawa Federation of Day Care Parents held a parents meeting April 30 with approximately 40 parents in attendance.

All of the above-named organizations presented to the government sponsored child care consultation of May 19.

At present Ottawa region child care advocates are very concerned about child-staff ratios for infant rooms. Lobbying is being done at the provincial and regional levels to provide adequate funding to meet the staffing requirements.

As well, on May 7 the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Social Services Department recommended that the Social Services Committee of the Regional Council budget for a 0 % salary increase for its child care workers, with only uncontrolled costs being allowed an increase. CUPE Local 2204 and the OCCCA were successful in having the decision on this recommendation delayed until June, at which time a report on the financial impact of increasing the budget can be examined.

### **Child Care Advocates Welcome Massive Expansion of Spaces**

Twenty thousand spaces, costing \$140-million were announced in the provincial budget as part of the provincial government's new Job Training Fund initiative and will be available to programme participants.

The Government has recognised child care as a vital component of economic renewal, said child care advocates, welcoming the massive expansion of child care spaces in the budget.

"Twenty thousand new subsidized spaces will provide considerable relief to child care programmes badly de-stabilised by the recession," said OCBCC President Jane Bertrand. The new subsidies, which will be phased in over the next three years, will fill some of the 4000 vacancies across the province and ease the pressure on waiting lists.

Bertrand also expressed support for Ontario Capital Fund provisions for the construction of new child care centres. "This is the first allocation for capital expansion in four years," she noted.

"We told government that inadequate child care was a major barrier to women's participation in jobs and training programs," Bertrand said. "We are pleased they listened. Now we will be urging the government to permanently flip these spaces into the regular system as quickly as possible so all working families can benefit from the increased availability of child care."

Also benefiting child care is the \$285-million allocation for pay equity. Previously excluded, child care workers were covered by the Pay Equity Act through amendments introduced in Dec. '91.

"The capital and operating increases will lay a solid basis for child care reform," Bertrand stressed, "Funding for pay equity will ensure staff are fairly paid when reform takes place."

### **New Director Appointed to Child Care Branch**

Richard Bradley is the new Director of the Child Care Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services. Richard assumed his duties on May 11, 1992. Previously, he served as Manager of the Legislation Unit in the Branch, and in this capacity he was extensively involved in the child care reform initiative and public consultation.

### **Pay Equity**

The Ontario government hopes to have pay equity amendments through the Legislature by the end of this session. The positive developments for child care workers are:

- \* Child care workers will be able to use the municipal child care staff in their area as a comparator. The municipal worker will be named in the schedule. Unionised workers will have the right to compare with a unionized proxy.
- \* Multi-employer proxy planning within a geographical district is possible.

Being able to use the municipal child care sector as a comparator will ensure a better adjustment for the seeking organization.

An area of concern still remaining is that there is no deadline by which pay equity must be achieved.



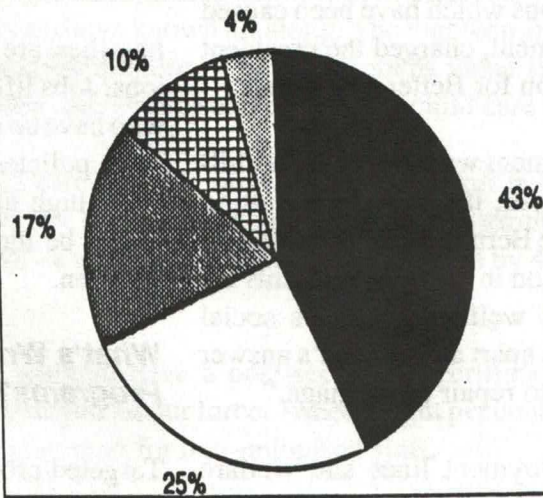
# Who Gets What in Canada—Income

## Income, Wealth and Taxation in Canada

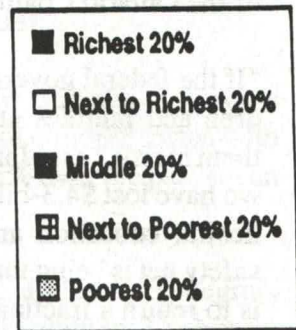
### Who Makes Money?

Income is distributed unevenly in Canada. The personal income of the poorest 20% of Canadians is 4% of the nation's total income, while the richest 20% of the population get 43% of total earned income. (See Figure 1)

Figure 1



### Who Gets What in Canada—Income



### Who Owns the Wealth?

Even more extreme inequity exists in the case of wealth (land, personal property, stock holdings, etc.). The wealthiest 20% of the population holds 69% of all Canada's net wealth. The poorest 20% of the population have no net wealth because their debts are larger than their assets. The second poorest 20% of Canadians own only 2.4% of all wealth. (See Figure 2)

The wealthiest 10% of the population own more than half—57%—of all Canada's wealth.

Concentration of wealth is encouraged by the absence of estate and gift taxes as well as by very low taxation on capital gains. For example, the first \$100,000 of capital gains income is completely tax free.

Four fifths of the companies on the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 Index are controlled by seven families.

Such concentrations of wealth mean that the "playing field" is never level. People come into this world with tremendous advantages or disad-

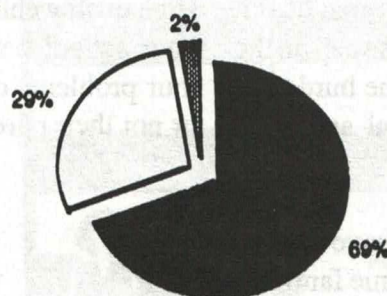
vantages, which are only reinforced by an economic system that is making the poor and middle class poorer, while the rich grow richer.

### Who Pays Taxes?

The wages and salaries of working people are taxed at much higher rates than is the income from capital gains, corporate stock dividends, and other kinds of investment income.

Figure 2

### Ownership of Wealth



As a result of Tory income tax changes since 1984, a family of four with an annual income of \$24,000 pays more than 40% more in taxes, while a wealthy family pays 6% less in income taxes.

The Tory federal government has increased the tax burden for the majority of individual Canadians and decreased it for the very wealthy. At the same time, the government services and supports on which individual Canadians depend have been cut down to harmfully low levels.

## Canada's Children at Risk: Poverty \* Hunger \* Uncertain Futures

The national initiative, "Brighter Futures", announced May 4 ignores the deteriorating social and economic conditions which have been caused by the federal government, charged the president of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.

"If the federal government wants to address children and families at risk, it should stop putting them at risk," said Jane Bertrand. "This year alone we have lost \$4.3-billion in transfer payments for health, education and welfare. Canada's social safety net is being torn apart and Ottawa's answer is to return a fraction to repair the damage."

"Food banks, unemployment lines and welfare rolls have become a permanent feature of Canadian society since the Conservatives took office," said Martha Friendly, of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women Child Care Committee. "Children, particularly those in female-led families, are plummeting deeper and deeper into poverty - and the government's solution is to offer nutrition information? The problem is not a lack of information, it's a lack of money."

### **Conservative Government Policy Has Placed Children At Risk**

Cuts in federal transfer payments threaten health care and post-secondary schooling. The cap on the Canada Assistance Plan has shifted the burden of exploding welfare costs to provincial and local governments.

The governments taxation policies have shifted the tax burden to low and middle income families, particularly those with children. Free trade and other Conservative economic policies have resulted in massive job losses.

### **The Issue Is Not Child Poverty But Family Poverty**

Families are poor because parents do not have jobs. Jobs lift people out of poverty -- and parents who have no child care can not work. Full employment policies, supported by a universally accessible, high quality, non-profit child care system, would be the best protection for all of Canada's children.

### **What's Wrong With "Targeted" Programs?**

Targeted programs stigmatize and ghettoise poor families and children. The majority of families are struggling to balance work and family responsibilities. Sixty-five per cent of dual income families require both incomes to remain above the poverty line, and these families need affordable, high quality child care.

### **Child Care Is A Preventative Measure**

Child care has demonstrated importance as a preventative program for poor children. Research suggests that "high risk" children can benefit developmentally from high quality child care. High quality child is a preventative measure against poor school performance and emotional behaviour problems of children, regardless of whether or not their parents are working.

## Reality of Wages and Working Conditions in Canadian Child Care Centres Exposed

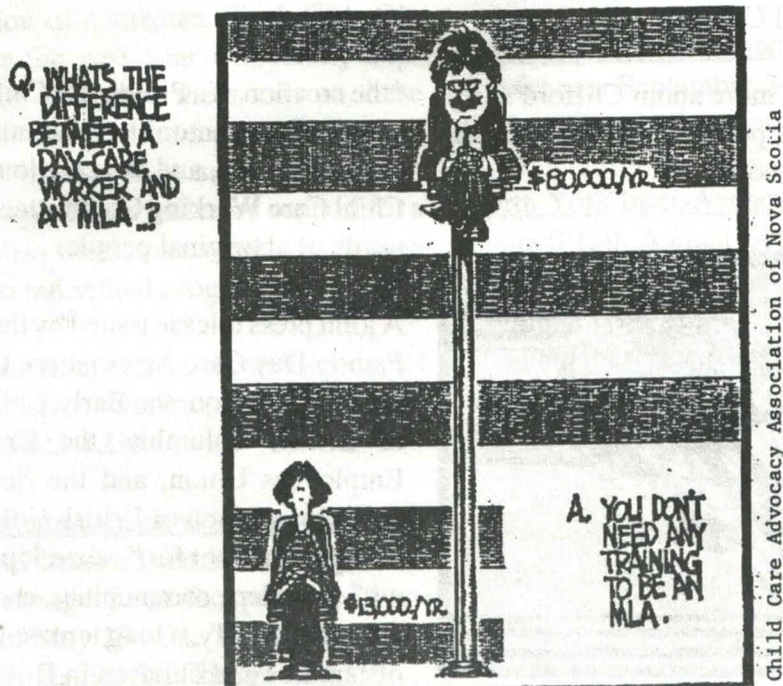
The results of a national survey of wages and working conditions in Canadian child care confirms what many child care workers and advocates have known all along. The eighteen-month nationwide study, Caring For A Living, paints a disturbing picture of how Canadians value those who care for their children. The study looked at 969 day care centres and over 7,200 child care staff,

The wages of many Canadian child care workers hover close to, or fall below Statistics Canada's poverty line. The average national yearly wage for a person in charge of a group of children, often with staff supervisory duties, was \$18,498 - a wage that has fallen in real terms by 4.5% over the past seven years.

Sixty-eight per cent of child care workers have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to 41% for the national employed labour force. Ninety-eight per cent are women. The hourly rate for unionised staff was 33% higher than for non-unionised staff.

Another significant variable influencing wages was auspice. Staff in municipal centres have the highest average salaries, earning 72% more than those employed in commercial centres. Staff in commercial centres have the lowest average salaries, earning 20% less than their counterparts in non-profit centres.

The study, funded by Health and Welfare Canada's Child Care Initiative Fund, was co-sponsored by the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association and the Canadian Child Day Care Federation.



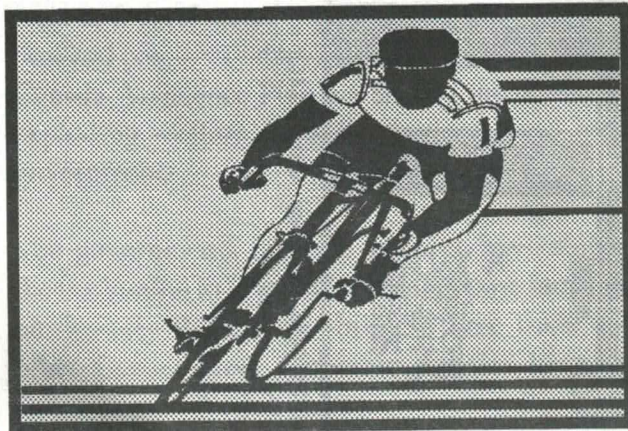
## On the Road for Quality Child Care

This summer, a long-time child care champion will take to Canada's roads and rivers to promote awareness of the need for quality child care. Howard Clifford, who has been a federal official on child care for a quarter of a century has taken a leave of absence to make an 11,000 kilometre trip across Canada by bicycle and kayak.

Child care supporters plan to bike and kayak with Clifford and to highlight child care at events throughout Western Canada. Clifford will collect stories about child care from the parents, children, and child care workers he will meet on his journey. Local, regional, provincial/territorial, and federal politicians are expected to participate as well.

The 1992 leg of Clifford's trip will take him from Victoria to Inuvik, Whitehorse, Alberta, and westward to Winnipeg in September. Next summer the second leg of the journey will begin in Newfoundland and end in central Canada.

If you want to find out more about Clifford's trip, and how you can be a part of it, contact Martha Friendly at (416) 978-6895.



CHILD CARE CHALLENGE

## British Columbia Announces Provincial Child Care Strategy

The new provincial government in British Columbia is getting its spending priorities right by making affordable quality child care available to more B.C. families. A new child care strategy announced by Penny Priddy, Minister of Women's Equality, on April 23, includes the following:

- \*a \$2.5-million infusion into infant and toddler child care.

- \*the creation of more spaces in family day care through a \$1.5-million expansion of the Day Care Support Program.

- \*the establishment of more non-profit child care centres through the creation of a \$2.75-million Child Care Expansion Program.

- \*almost \$1-million in support to communities to plan for and develop child care options that meet local needs.

- \*the creation of a Provincial Child Care Council to give B.C. communities a greater say over child care initiatives, and the creation of an Aboriginal Child Care Working Committee to better meet the needs of aboriginal people.

A joint press release issued by the Western Canada Family Day Care Association, the B.C. Day Care Action Coalition, the Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia, the Children's Services Employees Union, and the School Aged Child Care Association of British Columbia praised the B.C. government for "...developing in partnership with providers, communities, and the broader child care community, a long term solution to the needs of families and children in British Columbia."

# News Flash

## Child Care Coalition on the Airwaves!

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care is one of two organizations featured in this year's Ontario Lottery Corporation TV advertising spots. The ads, demonstrating how Lottery dollars are spent, show children and a child care worker at Bethany Child Care Centre in Toronto's East end. The voice-over explains that the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care assists child care centres with program and other types of support.

The Ontario Lottery Corporation funds organizations in Ontario through the Trillium Foundation. Last year the OCBCC was the recipient of a Trillium Grant, and became eligible to be featured in the Lottery Corporation advertising program. The ads are run in English, French, Spanish, and Greek, and will show on prime-time television at various times throughout the year.

## Announcements

### Association of Canadian Child Care

Co-operatives - Canadian child care co-operatives will now have a national voice with the formation of the Association of Canadian Child Care Co-operatives. Over the past year a federally supported task force identified the needs of these programs and the feasibility of a national group through a major Canada-wide survey. Seventy-one per cent of respondents indicated support for a national organisation which assists childcare through direct services to individual programs.

For further information contact: Joan Tierney, 24 Soho Crescent, Nepean Ontario, K2J 2W1.  
Telephone (613) 825-1233.

### National Action Committee on the Status of Women

(NAC) - AGM in Ottawa from June 5 - 8. Please note this is a change from the previously announced dates of May 29 - 31. The theme of the AGM will be "Strategies for Change - Part 2".

For further information contact the NAC office at 416-759-5252.

### Network 92 - Doing More With Less

Annual CNCP conference June 12 - 14. Contact Pat Codato at (416)

### Exploring Environments: School-Age Child Care

Conference September 24 - 26, 1992  
Contact Kim O'Rourke at (416)332-0039

### North York Inter-Agency and Community

Council 13th Annual General Meeting  
June 18, 1992 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre

Special Guest Speaker - Marvyn Novick on "Social Planning in the 90's".  
Call (416) 226-5505.

## Publications

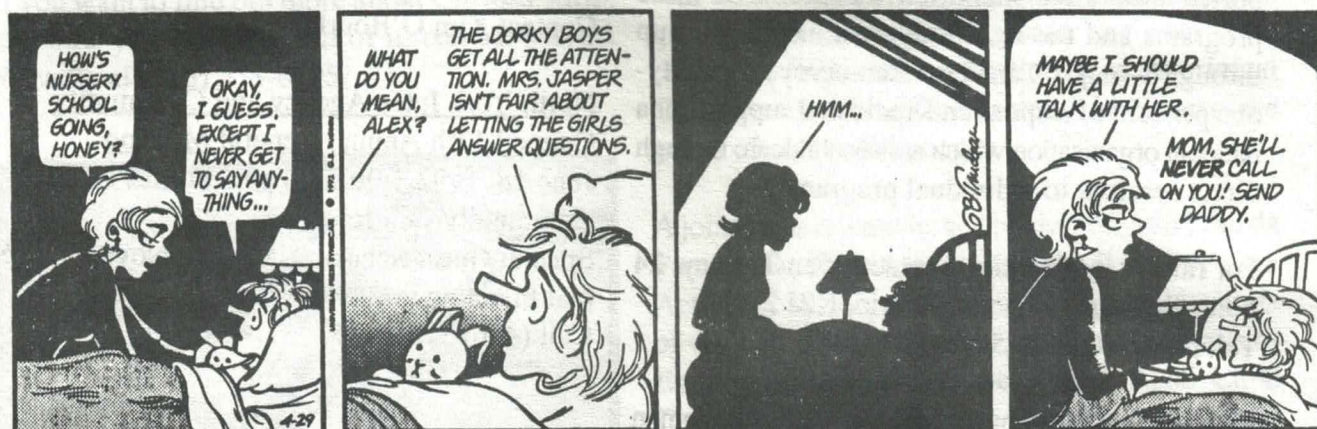
The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care has prepared a response to the provincial government's child care reform consultation paper Setting the Stage. Copies are available from the Coalition office, 500 A Bloor Street West, Toronto, M5S 1Y8, or by contacting the Coalition at (416) 538-0628.

The Canadian Paediatric Society announces the publication of Well Beings: A Guide to Promote the Physical Health, Safety and Emotional Well-Being of Children in Child Care Centres and Family Day Care Homes. A Canadian Guide promoting the health of young children in child care, Well Beings was written and reviewed by over 150 paediatrician, early childhood educators, physicians, public health and social service professionals.

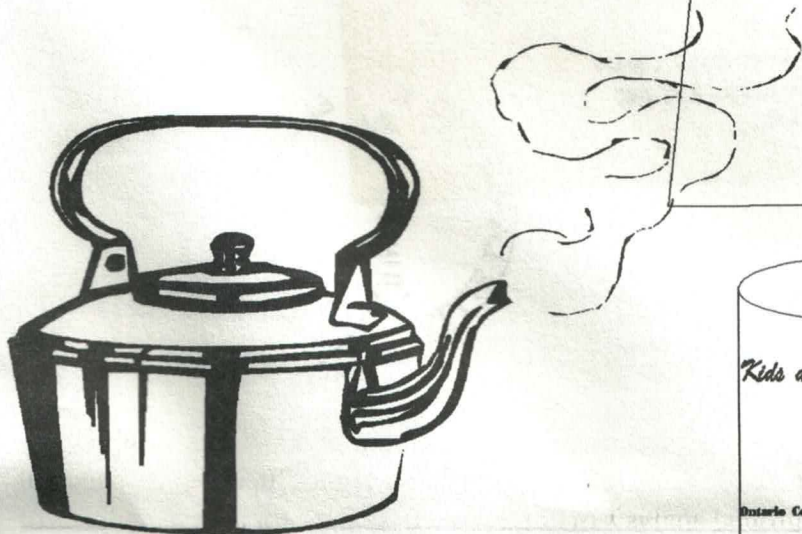
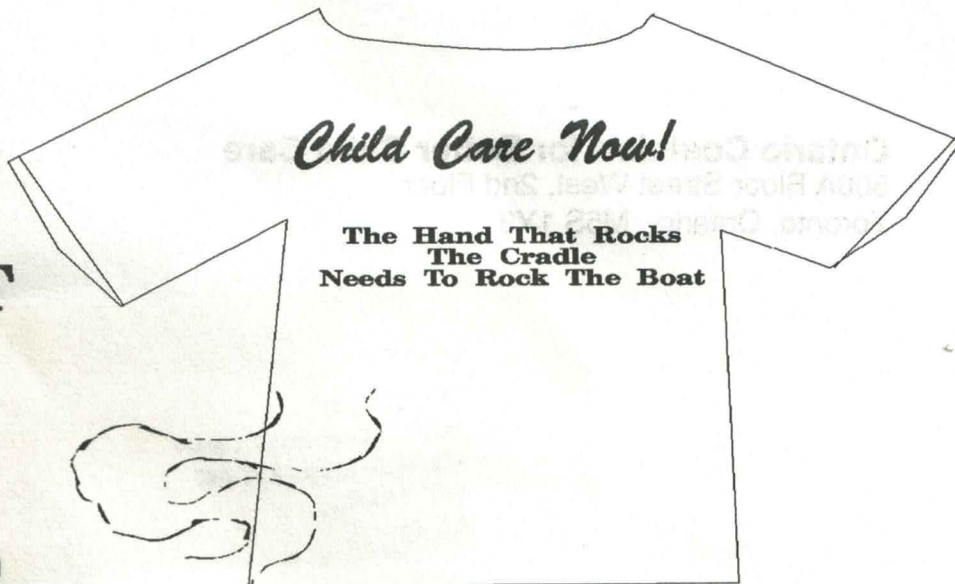
Well-Beings presents information in a friendly, easy-to-use format. For more information, or to order, contact the Canadian Paediatric Society, 401 Smythe Road, Ottawa Ontario, K1H 8L1 or call (613) 737-2728.

Trading in Domestic Work is a new publication produced by The Moment Workshop in conjunction with INTERCEDE, the Toronto Organization for Domestic Worker's rights. It includes personal testimony from domestic workers, background analysis of domestic work, ideas for action, and lists of resources and contact groups.

To order contact Eve Goldberg at The Moment: (416) 469-3579.



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Nellie Langford Rowell Library  
4700 Keele Street, Room 204C  
North York ONT.  
M3J 1P3



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# CHILD CARE REFORM:

## *WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD.....*