

CC 509

CANADIAN DAY CARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA PROMOTION DES SERVICES
DE GARDE A L'ENFANCE

Judith Martin
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INTRODUCTION

The last twelve months have been dedicated mainly to building an organizational and political base for the C.D.C.A.A. We have had a low profile--quite deliberately. The executive decided that before a lot of public work could be done, we needed to undertake a developmental and consultative process with the steering committee that was elected out of the 2nd National Day Care Conference in Winnipeg, September 1982, as well as with the day care community in various parts of Canada.

The activities of the past year are best described under specific headings.

MEMBERSHIP

In November we launched a nation-wide membership campaign - letters and brochures were sent to all day care centres in English Canada (Quebec is being done this month) as well as to a number of women's, labour and community groups who we felt might join. As of this writing, we have 748 memberships--in respect to groups the following groups have taken out supporting memberships (\$20.00):

Congress of Canadian Women	River Avenue Co-op Day Nursery Inc.
Healthsharing Inc.	Winnipeg Comm. Educ. & Dev. Assoc.
North Central Child Care	Women's Bureau, Prov. of Man.
Co-op Assoc.	Man. Child Care Assoc. Inc.
Net. Assoc. of Women & Law, Stoon Caucus	Ottawa Carleton Day Care Assoc.
Sask. Teachers Fed.	Mini Skool Ltd.
Big Sisters Assoc. of Stoon	Canadian Advisory Council
United Steelworkers of America, 7458	Status of Women Canada
C.U.P.E. Local 1921	Great Northern Apparel
Sask. Working Women	Centennial College, ECE Prog.
Regina Junior Service League	Ottawa & District Labour Coun.
Canadian Union of Postal Workers	"Tuesday Special"
Alternatives for Single Parent Women	Doc. Ctre., C.A.C.S.W.
Sask. U.F.C.W. Local 1400	Levis Strauss & Co.
Canadian Union of Public Employees, 2268	O.P.E.I.U. 491
Britannia Community Services Centre	Family Benefits Work Group in Ont.
B.C. University Day Care Council	Early Childhood Dev. Assoc. of P.E.I.
B.C. Fed. of Labour	Pre-School Educ. Assoc. of N.S.
Soc. Ser. Employees of B.C.	Nova Scotia Nurses Union
B.C. Day Care Action Coalition	Kinette Club of Charlottetown
James Bay Child Care Soc.	P.E.I. Home Econ. Assoc.
Victoria Status of Women	Faculty of Child Study, Mt. St. Vincent Univ
Van. Island Early Childhood Ctr.	Nova Scotia Assoc. of Social Workers
Operators Assoc.	Prov. Advisory Council on the Status of
Calgary Burns Memorial Fund	Women, Nfld. & Labrador
U. of Alta. Academic Women's Assoc.	Corner Brook Status of Women Council
Dr. Margaret Savage Women's Crisis Ctr.	Dawson Child Care Assoc.
Legal Resource Centre, Alberta	
I.O.D.E. Prov. Chapter of Alberta	

In all, some 146 centres have joined and the following groups have joined as sustainers (\$100.00 or more):

Canadian Union of Public Employees,
Local 82
Public Service Alliance of Canada
Sask. Action Committee, Status of
Women
Sask. Democratic Women
Action Child Care

Canadian Union of Public
Employees, Ottawa
Sask. Gov't Employees Union
Canadian Union of Public Empl.,
Local 79
Canadian Union of Public Empl.,
Local 974

In respect to "sustainers", we have not had time to launch our sustaining membership drive - so in fact there has been no active solicitation of groups to sustain.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The 8-person executive has met three times - once in Ottawa (June 1, 2) where we were welcomed by Grace Hartman and members from the Ottawa Day Care Community--once in Montreal (October 28-30) where we took steps to "mend fences" with our supporters from Quebec who have many questions about the Association, given the emphasis on the National Act (with national regulations) at the conference - not to mention the translation difficulties--and once just recently in Toronto (Feb. 10,11) where we had a special meeting with Action Day Care as well as a very successful "public meeting" at Toronto City Hall.

All executive members have been in attendance - all provide their own lodgings or use billets and pay all expenses except group meals, ground travel and air travel. For some of us, these meetings take more time than others. Carol Christian, from Whitehorse, has had to leave her day care and her family usually for 4-5 days because of the long trip. And, of course, the work for arrangements, billets, etc. has fallen to Larry Katz, Monique Daviault and Renee Edwards who have been our hosts for these meetings. Your local steering committee member has all minutes which are, of course, available to all members.

FUNDING

This year we obtained \$8,000.00 from Health & Welfare; \$15,000.00 from Secretary of State Women's Programs and \$4,200.00 from Status of Women Canada. Needless to say, it has been tight!

Presently, we are putting a great deal of effort into obtaining major funding for 1984-85. Our plans are to open an office in Ottawa with two full-time staff. At the moment, Larry Katz, our executive member, is co-ordinating the funding application process with assistance from Lynn Westlake, our Ottawa steering committee member. Since we are looking for major funds, the work entailed is quite great. We need funding - we need an office - we need staff - this year has been much too taxing on the executive and on the staff and volunteers we have in Saskatoon. The executive is committed to establishing an effective office--we may have to call upon your support to lobby for funding--however, it looks promising.

As chairperson, I've also made application for additional funding for 1983-84 from the Women's Program, Secretary of State.

OFFICE/STAFF

In June we established a small office in Saskatoon. Anne Stanbury has been managing the paper work and keeping the finances in order. Without the slightest exaggeration, Anne has played a key and determining role in providing support for myself and all of the executive. Anne works at union wages but, in fact, contributes a great deal on a voluntary basis. We also hired a Saskatoon co-ordinator for 120 hours and a Toronto co-ordinator for 90-100 hours.

All of the executive are employed full time - the majority of us have small children. The work has been done at kitchen tables late into the night (the origins of the best organizing efforts!) This year we have been helped enormously by the assistance of CUPE - through the work and support of Larry Katz. By virtue of Larry being on the executive, he has brought to the executive not only his own not insignificant energy but the resources of CUPE--they printed the newsletter--sent out press releases--circulated countless articles.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This has been a major task of the CDCAA this past year. Last March the executive was mandated to build a national coalition for a campaign which would focus on the need to obtain much more and a new kind (direct) of Federal funding for day care. We were asked to prepare policy proposals on the best way to get direct dollars (be that the reform of CAP or tax deductions or a National Act or whatever) and to consult with the steering committee about such proposals.

At our first meeting in Ottawa in June, the executive reviewed our mandate--the conference resolutions--the struggle for public education and the struggle for health care and fleshed out some initial policy questions. As chairperson, I then took time this summer (along with contracting a consultant for a week) to put together policy proposals and a conceptual framework and a language that would permit us to build a populist day care movement. Over a period of time, the executive researched the policy questions, consulted with experts and finally at our October meeting adopted a policy proposal position paper which was then circulated to all the steering committee for comments, feedback and finally for polling. The results were encouraging - we received active support from 67% and active rejections from only two members (we've had two other people resign) and passive support from the remainder. The policy proposals we're advancing are described in the paper "The CDCAA Story" which is enclosed in this mailing.

NEWSLETTER

Larry Katz and Monique Daviault edited the first edition of The Advocate.

Larry has taken on to edit the second edition and Monique will translate and provide any special editing for her province.

ELECTIONS

Another major task of the executive has been to fulfill our mandate to assist provincial representatives to put in place a democratic election process for steering committee representatives for 1984-86. This was essential because our origins are a government-sponsored conference--we must shed these origins and utilize a democratic election process. As of this writing, elections are being held in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the Yukon and Territories. In all areas the day care constituency is being defined in broad terms to include change-oriented groups such as women, labour, community groups. This process has been co-ordinated by the chair and the executive with the major work being done at the provincial level. We have provided minimal financial support to the local groups.

As of the end of March, we will have a new democratically elected 24-person steering committee. My congratulations to the steering committee members all across Canada on this effort - it has not been easy - it has been a lot of hard work--but our commitment to the conference is fulfilled.

PRODUCTION OF MATERIALS

We produced a brochure (Ken Pierce did it), an Ad (has been placed in the CUPE national magazine; Our Times; This Magazine; Network (Status of Women, Sask.); Commonground; and a host of newsletters) and are working on a popular publication to be completed September 1984.

We've also begun watching the popular press in regards to articles on day care and have written to respective editors about troublesome pieces in Chatelaine magazine and the Toronto Star.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS/SPECIAL MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS/NETWORKING

In October the executive met with Monique Begin for 1½ hour. I did a presentation for officials from Ministry of State, Social Development. I also participated in a 3-day meeting of leaders from a broad range of national women's organizations. In January I represented the Association at a meeting with NAC Status of Women in Toronto at which time their policy on day care was being reviewed.

In March I have been invited (and will attend) to present a workshop at the Annual General Meeting of NAC Status of Women and on March 12 the Association has been asked to speak to a meeting of the 30-person Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

In January I made a visit to Vancouver where four meetings were held, the main one being a meeting of a broad cross-section of day care people which was organized by the B.C. Day Care Action Coalition. Susan Christie, the

Vancouver steering committee member, organized my time in Vancouver and did a most excellent job of it.

In November the Association presented a brief to the MacDonald Hearings while they were sitting in Saskatoon. Also in November we prepared a brief for the Abella Commission on Equality in Employment. Larry Katz and Renee Edwards also attended a special meeting on Day Care with Judge Abella in Toronto.

In January, steering committee member, Lynn Westlake, attended the second meeting of the leaders of the National Women's groups in Ottawa on my behalf - since it conflicted with our Vancouver trip.

In December the CDCAA sponsored a public meeting in Saskatoon to describe our policies and in Toronto in February we did likewise.

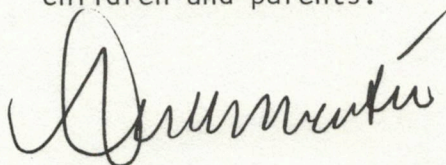
In late fall, at the CUPE National Conference, a position was adopted which expresses support for the CDCAA and for the policy positions we have developed.

The above comments cover many of the things we have done that have a national focus - however, there has also been considerable work done at the local level (such as Ken Pierce's work, on our behalf, with the Quality of Life Hearings in P.E.I.) which this report will not deal with.

And so on! -- What's not covered here are the things we said "no" to because of lack of time and resources--we could have travelled more--done more educational work--done a lot more to involve membership--developed bilingual materials earlier and such. It has often been frustrating to see all the opportunities and all the potential and yet live with our limitations as a small struggling organization. But there is next year. Despite my sometimes apparent exhaustion (I, too, have to earn a living and raise my kids!) I must say that this last year has been very enriching. The thing that strikes me most is the spirit and dedication of the day care community and day care advocates - in brief - the energy of working parents despite our dual and triple roles.

As I said in Toronto: "Of course, we are strong--our cause could not be more right or more just--history is on our side."

The 80s will see major breakthroughs on day care--the CDCAA will lead the way for these breakthroughs and make sure they serve the interests of children and parents.



Judith Martin,
Chairperson

P.S. I just glanced up from my desk to see my pictures of my 8-year old and my baby who will be 2 on March 18. For all of you who met her at the Conference and met her earlier (she attended all the planning meetings for the Conference from age 3 weeks to 6 months) -- she is very lovely - now telling us all what to do - happily enjoying her day care, her dog, her sister and life in general.