



The Canadian
Day Care Advocacy
Association

L'Association canadienne
pour la promotion des services
de garde à l'enfance

CC 503

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL ONTARIO MEMBERS

FROM: Julie Mathien, Board Member, Ontario
Larry Katz, Steering Committee Member, Ontario

DATE: March 3, 1987

Warmest greetings:

Both of us wish to thank you for your ongoing support of C.D.C.A.A. activities. We wish to also emphasize that your membership and involvement in the C.D.C.A.A. is critically important to the positive public and political impact our Association is having on child care policies. The purpose of this memorandum is to keep you advised of our activities and let you know of upcoming events.

As you know, elected C.D.C.A.A. members meet three times a year. The full Steering Committee meets in June and the Board meets in the fall and winter. The last Board Meeting took place the last weekend of February.

During the past six months, we've accomplished the following:

- written letters to the editor (Globe and Mail, Toronto Star), met with members of the press and did interviews (e.g. As It Happens) on child care policy,
- worked with Penny Coates (B.C., Board Member) and Sharon Irwin (Nova Scotia, Board Member) on the C.D.C.A.A. paper, "False Solutions", which you should have received in the mail.
- have been in touch with the Prime Minister and members of the Special Committee regarding the direction and deliberations of the Special Committee on Child Care,
- met with Premier Peterson's staff to discuss day care policy in Ontario. Our discussion focussed on the need for properly regulated, high quality, non-commercial, publicly funded child care services,

Lynette Billard
President/Présidente
St. John's, Nfld.

Penny Coates
Vice-president/
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Coquitlam, B.C.

Joanne Oberg
Secretary/Secrétaire
Whitehorse, Yukon

Jake Kuiken
Treasurer/Trésorier
Calgary, Alta.

Lorna Young
Cornwall, P.E.I.

Sharon Irwin
Glouce Bay, N.S.

Susan McGibbon
Fredericton, N.B.

Gaétane Morissette
St-Lambert, Qué.

Julie Mathien
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Pat Wylynko
Winnipeg, Man.

Roni Cloak
Saskatoon, Sask.

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Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.

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- met along with other members of the C.D.C.A.A. Board with Jake Epp and had a subsequent meeting with his assistant,

- worked with Martha Friendly (Child Care Resource and Research Unit, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto) on an analysis of the transcripts of the public hearings of the parliamentary Special Committee on Child Care. This document was released at a news conference February 23. The results are extremely encouraging, and a copy will be mailed by our office to all C.D.C.A.A. members this month.

- Julie participated in a press conference with the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, the Metro Toronto Day Care Coalition, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and the Ontario Federation of Labour. The press conference was called to oppose Mr. Sweeney's proposal to give direct operating grants to profit-making day care. This represents a blatant disregard of a previous commitment by the government. Our presentation took the form of an open letter to Premier Peterson.

- Julie worked on a leaflet with the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. A copy of the leaflet is enclosed. It explains the negative consequences of providing direct grants to commercial child care. Please feel free to reproduce this leaflet.

- Julie has participated on N.A.C.'s day care committee, and with other members of the committee gave a workshop at N.A.C.'s National Meeting on January 10.

- Julie reported on C.D.C.A.A. activities at the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care Meeting on January 25.

- On January 22 and 23 the provincial social services ministers met in Ottawa. Prior to the meeting, the C.D.C.A.A., along with other organizations, met with Mr. Sweeney. At the meeting we stressed the importance of Ontario's role in promoting enlightened child care policies.

- Larry continues to use his position of influence within the labour movement to promote C.D.C.A.A. policies.

We think you will agree that this is an extremely important historical period for child care. The country is truly at a watershed. Only last night the CTV National News carried a story with the Prime Minister saying he is prepared to significantly increase spending on child care. Later this week, C.D.C.A.A. co-ordinator, Lynne Westlake, will be participating on a CBC Journal panel on child care. But the question remains - what policy directions will governments take?

We have not listed the above activities to leave the impression that all is well, that you can simply rely on your elected representatives to carry your message. The truth is, there is much more we would like to do - and which needs doing. Our Association's influence has always come from its diverse membership base, the activities of its members, and our attempt to use a language and approach which truly reflects the needs and aspirations of Canada's parents, children, and child care community. At this important moment, it is more important than ever that we maintain our momentum and build upon the positive lessons of the past.

With this in mind, please mark the following dates on your calendar:

March to June: Federal-Provincial negotiations for a new child care plan. Please contact your federal and provincial MP and MPP to urge them to support high-quality, affordable, accessible child care services. Direct funding of services and the non-commercial orientation of services (as with Medicare, for example) are issues which require special attention now. Please use and return the attached form.

End of March: The parliamentary special committee on child care is expected to release its findings. Our Board members will help organize a press briefing luncheon a few days prior to the release of the report and a second press conference to coincide with the public release of the report. Please study the analysis of the public hearings you will soon receive in the mail. If the committee wanders from what the people of Canada called for, please, in the name of democracy, make your voices heard.

Also: The C.D.C.A.A. Steering Committee will meet June 12-14. Among other things, C.D.C.A.A. policy will be an agenda item. So if you wish to suggest new policies, or changes to traditional policies, please contact either one of us as soon as possible.

In closing, we wish to once again sincerely thank you for your support. It's an exciting time for child care. And we look forward to continuing to advocate improved, expanded and enriched services for Canada's children.

With best personal regards,

Larry Katz

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P.S. If you have not renewed your C.D.C.A.A. membership, would you please do so immediately.

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Encl.