

# The Day Care Advocate

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

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## Hope for the future

Our Association has just had its first birthday, and we think there's a lot to celebrate.

Like all babies, she's needed a lot of nursing; maybe even a bit more than others, because she's been kicking and talking right from her first day.

But the hard work's been worth it. We've created a cross-country organization with a broad network of support. We've grown in size - considerably. Though young, we've come of age politically. And we've even managed to survive financially.

Our first executive has fulfilled its mandate. All provinces and territories are now in the process of choosing their representatives for a new, 2-year term steering committee. And plans are in place for a federal day care lobby at the end of May.

Of course, there's still a lot to do. Cutbacks are threatening us everywhere and we've had to get out and fight hard just to keep standards up to yesterday's levels. But in working on these emergencies, we've laid a basis to go forward to tomorrow. Because our association exists, we've created some hope for the future.

Let's continue.

## From the chair

Hello! So much has happened since we published the last issue of the Advocate. It's been an exciting and rewarding period for our Association.

A proper report would take many pages; fearing the editor's ax, I'll try to stick to the highlights. A full report (mailed to all members in February) can be obtained from our office.

### MEMBERSHIP

In November we launched a country-wide membership campaign. As of March 8, we are approaching a membership of 1,000 individuals. Significantly, 165 day care centres and over 60 organizations from across the country have also joined the Association. A full list of supporting (\$20.00) and sustaining members (\$100.00 or more) is printed at the end of this newsletter.

What is most impressive is the cross-section of people and groups that have affiliated.

### EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The 8-person executive has met three times, once in Ottawa (June 1, 2) where we were welcomed by the Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association and Grace Hartman, once in Montreal (October 28-30) where we dialogued with Quebec advocates on policy questions, and more recently in Toronto (February 10, 11) where we had a special meeting with Action Day Care, as well as a very successful outreach public meeting at Toronto City Hall.

### FUNDING

This year we obtained \$15,000 from the Secretary of State Women's Program, \$8,000 from Health and Welfare, and \$4,200 from Status of Women Canada. This is in addition to our membership fees. Needless to say, our financing has been tight. A major grant application has been submitted for our next fiscal year.

### OFFICE OPENING IN OTTAWA

The Association has become so much in demand that the executive has decided we must have an office with two full-time staff. The office will be located in Ottawa since our major function will be to lobby for improved legislation and funding.

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This has been a major preoccupation 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 new direct Federal funding for day care. We were asked to prepare policy proposals on the best way to get direct dollars in a way which would be compatible with our long-term objectives and to consult with our 37-person steering committee on the proposals.

At our first meeting in Ottawa in June the executive reviewed our mandate... the conference resolutions... the fight for public education and health care, and fleshed out some initial policy options. As chairperson, I then took time last summer (along with contracting a consultant for a week) to put together policy proposals, a conceptual framework, and a style of presentation which would permit us to build a popular, mainstream day care movement. The executive researched the policy questions, consulted with day care and constitutional experts, and finally at our October meeting adopted a draft background paper which was circulated to all steering committee members for comments, feedback and finally for polling. The results were encouraging - active rejections from only two members and active support from 67 per cent of this large, diverse group. The policy proposals we're using are described in this newsletter.

## 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 1984-1986. This was essential since our first steering committee was elected at the 2nd Canadian Day Care Conference held in Winnipeg. We believe each Province and Territory should have the opportunity to elect their representatives. As of this writing, elections are being held in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, the Yukon and the Territories. In all areas the day care constituency is being defined in broad terms and includes change-oriented constituencies like women, labour, day care advocacy and community groups.

As of the end of March, we have a new democratically elected 24-person steering committee.

## PRODUCTION OF MATERIALS

We produced a bilingual brochure, an ad (which has appeared in a number of magazines and newsletters), "The CDCAA Story", and this is our second issue of the Advocate.

We've also been watching the popular press and have written responses to troublesome pieces.

## PUBLIC STATEMENTS,

### SPECIAL MEETINGS, NETWORKING

In October the executive met with Monique Bégin for one and one half hours. We 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 of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) in Toronto to review their policy on day care.

Also in January, I visited Vancouver, where 4 meetings were held, the main one being with a broad cross-section of day care people organized by one of our affiliates, the B.C. Day Care Action Coalition. Our Association was given active support.

In November the Association presented a brief to the Macdonald Commission while it was sitting in Saskatoon. Also in November a brief was presented to the Abella Commission on Equality in Employment. Executive members Larry Katz and Renée Edwards represented the Association.

In January, steering committee member Lynn Westlake attended the second meeting of the leaders of 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. In February we did the same in Toronto.

In October, the CUPE National Convention (CUPE represents 300,000 public employees) adopted a policy paper on child care expressing support for the CDCAA and the policy direction we have developed. In March, Larry Katz and Jamie Kass met with the women's committee of the Canadian Labour Congress requesting support for the CDCAA.

And I just returned from the annual conference of NAC. Our Association was

asked to participate in a workshop on day care. Subsequently, the NAC delegates voted to support the efforts of the CDCAA. Day care was also an issue raised in the lobby of all three federal party caucuses. This is an important development for our Association. There are 270 organizations affiliated with NAC, and it represents 3 million Canadian women.

The above comments cover many of the things we have done which 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 Hearing in P.E.I., meetings executive members have attended in their regions, and the work done at kitchen tables late into the night (the origins of the best organizing efforts!).

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the executive members for their work and support. All of the executive members are employed full time - and the majority of them have small children. Also, Anne Stanbury has played a key role in managing the not insignificant paper work associated with our efforts. Thanks Anne.

What's not covered here are the things we said "no" to because of insufficient time and resources. We could have travelled more, done more educational work, done a lot more to involve our membership, developed bilingual materials earlier and so on. It has been frustrating to see all the opportunities and all the potential and yet live with our limitations as a young, struggling organization.

But there is next year. Despite my sometimes apparent exhaustion (I too, have to earn a living and raise my children!), I must say 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.

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

Judy Martin  
CDCAA Chairperson

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## Taking our case to Ottawa

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The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association will make day care a major issue in the forthcoming federal election.

"A major part of our campaign" said Judith Martin, chairperson of the Association, "will be an organized lobby of Federal MPs this May in Ottawa."

"There is a pressing need for universally accessible, high quality, public child care services", she said. "So the Association will bring representative day care advocates from all provinces and territories to Ottawa to tell politicians they can no longer sidestep this vital social issue."

Most families today require two incomes to make ends meet. Government statistics

show that mothers of young children who work for a wage outnumber those who are staying home full-time. This ever-growing majority is being denied basic services. Too few spaces, excessive fees, uneven quality, and low wages for day care employees are some of the inadequacies.

Martin blamed federal and provincial government underfunding and federal legislation which treats day care as a welfare user-fee service for the crisis.

"We cannot live in yesterdays that have all but disappeared" said Larry Katz, Ontario representative on the Executive of the Association.

"The massive increase in the number of women in the official labour force, pressures of urban living, more single-parent families, and shifts in other societal and family economic and cultural patterns have combined to make child care an essential public service", he said. "Governments have turned a blind eye to the most precious and vulnerable members of our society - our children".

The CDCAA is calling for a Parliamentary Task Force to develop recommendations on the funding and legislative mechanisms required to implement a comprehensive, high quality, universally accessible public child care system.

At the same time, the CDCAA is calling for a stop-gap child care financing program to both improve the quality of existing licensed child care programs and create a child care resource fund for new public centres and programs.

"We are calling for new spending powers by the Federal government, while respecting provincial control over regulations, as a realistic transitional mechanism for achieving the comprehensive system day care advocates want and which will be studied by the Parliamentary Task Force", said Judith Martin.

The Ottawa day care community, including representatives from the Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association, will make billeting and other arrangements for the lobbyists. The National Action Committee on the Status of Women has provided experienced lobbyists to help with the logistics. And Marian Dewar, the Mayor of Ottawa, has offered her help to provide a warm reception for lobbyists travelling to Ottawa.

## Daycare coalition has one policy

The CDCAA has achieved an historic first. For the first time, a national coalition has agreed to back a unified policy on day care.

The CDCAA Executive has worked hard this past year to develop a consensus around policy issues within the Association.

This is an ongoing process, of course. It takes time and patience. And no doubt there is room for refinement and improvement. But through a process of consultation with our 37-member steering committee - which comprises a group predictably diverse

in geography, experience and association with day care - we have arrived at strong support for points which can now serve as an initial basis of agreement for our Association.

Here they are. We believe that high quality, accessible affordable child care services should be available to every Canadian child in need.

We view day care as a "societal issue" and oppose attempts by governments to isolate and characterize it as merely a concern of current users, providers and professional experts. All Canadian citizens are concerned with how we as a society provide support care for our children. Indeed, citizens from all walks of life and regions are saying we need support now.

We see it as essential that the CDCAA be a broadly-based, popular, representative and bilingual organization and specifically include linkages with change-oriented groups such as women's organizations, provincial advocacy groups and labour groups. This is not a vague concept. It is presently being practised in two ways:

1. Our election for steering committee members involves a deliberate process of including these groups in the definition of the "day care constituency".

2. Our membership drive includes a process of active solicitation of these groups as supporting or sustaining members.

We recognize, first and foremost, that the major question with respect to day care utilization is parental choice. We do not, for example, feel that by definition all mothers of young children should be in the official labour force. Nor do we believe that women should be denied access to the official job market, or obstructed from equality of opportunity within it. Our view is that an enlightened, modern society provides a range of service options which permit parents to make intelligent decisions about child care. Canadian parents are now denied this choice.

We recognize that the pressing need for a comprehensive day care system represents a significant cultural change in Canada. Because of this, many Canadians have sincere questions about whether day care is good for children. Our experience - and evaluation of available documentation - demonstrates that high quality day care is a beneficial service for children and parents. The Association wants to assist the public in discussing the range of assumptions and values residing behind the issue of child-care. We have requested a Parliamentary Task Force to, in part, facilitate this dialogue.

We are extremely critical of the fact that present Federal legislation (enshrined within the Canada Assistance Plan) restricts and defines public funding for day care as a form of welfare. The problems of insufficient government funding, the entrenchment of user fees and the application of stringent needs tests have become the norm because of this. Public funding for select users of day care reinforces and strengthens the user fee model of day care. According to this view, day care is purchased on the open market, and the role of government is to merely assist specific low income parents who

cannot compete effectively as consumers in the day care market place. Children, child care providers and the overwhelming majority of Canadian parents have suffered because of this antiquated model. This approach finds its roots in 19th century thinking which viewed day care as a form of charitable relief for poor, destitute working mothers. We believe we must come to terms with current realities. For example, more mothers of young children now work for a wage or salary than those who are staying home full time, and their numbers are increasing each year.

The history of other universal services (education, health care) and our present experience with day care leads us to believe that high quality, stable, equally accessible day care cannot operate as a user-fee service.

We are opposed to lobbying for the reform of the Canada Assistance Plan as a mechanism for improving day care. However, because the provinces have failed to utilize federal funding under CAP fully, we support groups who are pressing their provincial governments to utilize CAP more effectively now.

We are opposed to lobbying for an increase in the child care income tax deduction. Child care tax deductions are a regressive and inequitable form of taxation. Moreover, these deductions represent a public expenditure which are an outgrowth of a policy which reinforces the user-fee model (the deduction assists individual parents as consumers). While it should be recognized that the conversion of the tax deduction to a tax credit would represent a shift toward a more progressive taxation policy, this approach would also reinforce the inadequacies of the user-fee system of child care.

We consider it grossly unfair that day care employees, mainly women, are now expected to subsidize good day care through low wages and inferior working conditions. Day care employees should receive wages, salaries and benefits commensurate with the value of their work. For too long, we believe, government underfunding has created artificial conflicts of interest between parents and child care providers. The needs of both groups must be addressed.

Although we acknowledge and respect day care as a matter of provincial jurisdiction (and oppose attempts to impose national regulations), we believe the dismal state of day care in Canada represents a national crisis which the Federal government has the responsibility to assume leadership on.

We see it as vitally important that the Federal government adopts policies which recognize day care as an essential community service, one which receives direct funding that supports all users, regardless of income. Most parents now find day care costs prohibitive. Like health care or universities, child care should not be treated as a welfare service. It is no less important than these other services.

We believe the Federal government has a clear constitutional basis for expanding its "spending power" in respect to day care. We also believe the Federal government must

show leadership now and stop seeing day care as simply a provincial responsibility. The Federal government has already taken on a position of leadership by defining day care as welfare with CAP. It has as well reinforced the user-fee model as a consequence of using section 63 of the Income Tax Act. We are looking for more enlightened leadership.

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## Two-pronged approach

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The time for decisive government action on child care has arrived.

It's all gone on for too long. Too much political procrastination. Too much hand-wringing. Too much buckpassing and shifting responsibility from one level of government to another. Too many references to child care being a welfare service. Too many narrowly-conceived cost arguments.

It's time for the federal government to acknowledge the link between our lives as parents and as members of society. It's time for our children to be offered the care and support they deserve.

With this in mind, the CDCAA spring lobby will place two major proposals before the Federal government.

First, the immediate appointment of a Parliamentary Task Force to develop a comprehensive plan for the implementation of universally accessible, high quality, affordable child care services, with substantial direct government funding, for every child in need.

Second, the immediate introduction of a Child Care Financing Program to put money into existing day care programs and expand upon the current service.

The Parliamentary Task Force  
The Parliamentary Task Force we are calling for ought to be broad in scope. It should address the multifaceted issue that a majority of Canadians now face daily -- that is the matter of how should a modern society, such as ours, support (in policy and program terms) a commitment to sexual equality, economic well-being and the raising of healthy, happy children.

Child Care Financing Program  
Our call for a Child Care Financing Program reflects the need to immediately come to terms with the magnitude of the current day care crisis. This is a stop-gap, transitional program which supplements CAP. It creates a precedent for funding day care on a non-restrictive, universal basis. It will help those now associated with day care services and begin the process of creating new child care spaces and programs.

There are two component parts of this Child Care Financing Program: A Direct Grant to existing licensed spaces and a Child Care Resources Fund for each province and territory.

Our Child Care Financing Program will put \$300 million new Federal dollars into the system in the first year.

The Direct Grant is based on a formula of \$5 per day to every licensed or supervised centre/caregiver for every approved child care place. This amount will be

increased annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. (In some provinces this may include nursery school spaces - providing they are licensed, are eligible for subsidy and function as a child care option for employed or student parents.)

The Child Care Resources Fund is based on a formula of \$25 for every child 12 years or younger in each province or territory. Since this is based on a per capita formula it begins to build equity into an evolving child care system. It's a mechanism for putting money into the hands of provincial and territorial governments as long as it is expended on the creation of new public child care programs and facilities. Local and regional groups would apply for the use of this fund. So it brings the question of "what do we need" to the grassroots level.

We think the construction of day care centres and the bringing of more people into the child care field are priority items in respect to this Fund. We are appalled when we view the outstanding need of Canadian children for care, in light of the high unemployment rates. Further, we are supportive of parents who are "at home" with their children. Proposals for programs which provide opportunities for "at home" parents to enjoy activities with their children would also be eligible for funding under the Child Care Resources Fund.

We are thus calling for new spending powers by the Federal government, while respecting the regulatory role of the provinces.

At the same time, the following conditions shall be applied to the Child Care Financing Program:

- 1) The \$5.00 per day direct grant shall initially be given to all licensed spaces except corporate-chain centres and large commercial centres.
- 2) Small licensed commercial centres shall only be eligible to apply for the direct grant for a transitional period up to 3 years, after which time they are not eligible for the grant unless they have become non-profit centres with a representative board structure.
- 3) Regarding new centres and programs, only non-profit spaces will be eligible for the \$5.00 per day direct grant.
- 4) The Child Care Resources Fund will only be used for non-profit centres and programs.
- 5) All recipients of the Direct Funding Program must meet the licensing regulations of their respective jurisdictions.

The transitional conditions we are calling for reflect our desire to evolve toward a comprehensive public child care system while providing small commercial operators and the users of their services the opportunity to make the adjustments required for ongoing funding. This addresses the needs of users and employees now associated with small commercial centres, and affords small operators, many of whom are low-income women, an opportunity to become a public centre and earn a respectable salary at the centre if they wish.

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## Children are the future

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A Commission on Canada's economic future cannot escape dealing with children. It can't only deal with the "productive" sphere of the economy. It must also look as the "reproduction" of the workforce. These two spheres cannot be separated. Society must develop policies, programs and systems which allow children to be nurtured while their parents are employed.

This was part of the message presented in a brief from the CDCAA to the Royal Commission on the economy chaired by former Liberal cabinet minister Donald Macdonald in Saskatoon.

The 31-page brief, presented by CDCAA Chairperson, Judith Martin, called on the federal government to assume enlightened leadership in resolving Canada's child care crisis.

We need a Parliamentary Task Force to recommend policies which would make universally accessible, publicly funded day care a reality in Canada's future, she said. And a federal child care financing program should be implemented now to help alleviate the current crisis.

The brief documented the solid constitutional basis for extending federal spending power for social programs where the method of intervention is not directly regulatory.

The CDCAA brief also contained material proving that a "new majority" of Canadian parents desperately need high quality child care support services.

"A growing consciousness is bonding the new majority", the brief stated, a consciousness cemented by the common experience of being victimized and left helpless because family support systems have not been put in place to match the new circumstances facing families.

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## Daycare key to equality — Judge

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A major brief by the CDCAA to the Abella Commission of Inquiry on the Equality of Employment was warmly received by Judge Rosalie Abella.

Titled "Beginning to solve Canada's day care crisis: short-term and long-term proposals", the brief documented two facts: 1) A majority of Canadian children are now being raised by individuals who have two jobs - that of parent and worker; and 2) publicly monitored and supported systems which supplement the parenting and child care role of the family remain extremely underdeveloped in Canada.

Equality of opportunity for women will not be achieved, CDCAA executive members Larry Katz and Renee Edwards told the Commission, unless governments fund high quality, affordable day care for all families in need.

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## Write on!

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Congratulations! The first issue of the Day Care Advocate is a success. It's nice to see something in print. You must be very pleased. I have sent copies to just about everyone under the sun here.

Catherine K. Moore  
Adult Education Centre  
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.

NAC policy includes support for a system of universally accessible day care. We welcome the efforts the CDCAA is undertaking to create broad-based national support for this vital service, and we look forward to working with the CDCAA on this issue.

Kathy Coffin  
Vice-President  
National Action Committee on the  
Status of Women

CUPE is strongly committed to improved and expanded child care facilities and programs. Even if we didn't have members employed in day care centres, we would see it as our responsibility to advance the cause of day care as an essential public service. The CDCAA has our full support. I wish you continued success.

Jeff Rose  
National President  
Canadian Union of Public Employees

On behalf of the Alliance, I would like to say how much we appreciate the efforts of the CDCAA. There can be no doubt that the need for Day Care in Canada far exceeds the availability of proper facilities and services. Best of luck in this endeavor which we know cannot be successful without participation from all of us.

Pierre Samson  
National President  
Public Service Alliance of Canada

The BCTF Status of Women Committee supports the formation of the CDCAA. We believe it to be a crucial step toward goals which we, as feminists, believe to be essential if women are to achieve full equality.

Miriam Dodds  
Co-ordinator  
Status of Women Program  
British Columbia Teachers' Federation

I have just read the Day Care Advocate. As a parent with two young children I was so pleased to read about the CDCAA. You have my full support. Life would be so much better if we had more day care centres.

Louise Giroux  
Parent, Ottawa

We look forward to working with the CDCAA whenever possible and wish you every success in achieving your goals.

Palma A. Anderson  
President  
Saskatchewan Action Committee on  
the Status of Women

I have just read your Chairperson's Report and the short paper on the Association. I had to take the time to write and congratulate you and the executive on the excellent work. As I read these items I had a growing sense of excitement and optimism about the future of day care in Canada. So keep up the tremendous work. I am certainly very proud to be a member of this organization.

Judith Tudiver  
Consultant in Early Childhood Education  
Department of Education  
Government of Newfoundland and  
Labrador

I am writing to pledge our support for the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association. We are excited at the prospect of a national organization dedicated to making accessible, affordable, high quality childcare services a reality for Canadian families.

Louise Renaud  
Coordinator  
B.C. Task Force on Immigrant Women -  
Vancouver

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## In Memoriam: Pat Schulz

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Pat Schulz - mother, feminist, day care advocate and friend to many - died on December 12, 1983 after a 12-year fight with cancer. Pat was 49.

Our movement has lost one of its most passionate and articulate voices.

Pat was a founding member and former coordinator of Action Day Care in Toronto. She was instrumental in the formation of the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care. Many CDCAA members will remember the vitally important keynote speech Pat gave at the second Canadian Day Care Conference in Winnipeg. Pat was elected to the first steering committee of the CDCAA.

In a letter to the Pat Schulz Memorial Fund Committee in Toronto, CDCAA Chairperson, Judith Martin, wrote: "On behalf of the CDCAA I want to express that great loss and sadness the day care community faces as a result of Pat Schulz's death.

Shelley Acheson, Human Rights Director of the Ontario Federation of Labour, noted that Pat "had a real talent for helping people understand and relate to issues that may not even directly affect them".

In a letter paying tribute to Pat's life, Larry Katz, Co-ordinator of CUPE's National Day Care Committee, said "So many people learned from Pat. She was believable because she cared and was compassionate. She moved us because her convictions were placed in the context of her own experiences and those of others. We have lost a friend and an exemplary advocate, a truly wonderful woman."

The Toronto Star noted that Catherine MacLeod and Lorraine Segato are producing a film-One Woman, Many Women: Pat Schulz, Feminist - that examines two decades of the women's movement, as seen through the eyes of Pat Schulz, an active participant.

A Pat Schulz Trust Fund has been created. Donations will be used to help

develop a Neighbourhood Resource Centre named after Pat. Donations can be sent to the Pat Schulz Trust Fund, 345 Adelaide Street West, Toronto.

## The media and daycare

The following article, written by Dr. Alan Pence, parent, CDCAA Steering Committee member, and child care researcher at the University of Victoria, was submitted to Chatelaine Magazine in response to an October, 1983 article entitled "How Day Care Affects Children's Behaviour".

Many parents wonder if day care provides a good child rearing environment. Burdens of doubt do exist, and the CDCAA sees the need to encourage an open and intelligent dialogue on this issue. This fall we intend to publish a comprehensive background paper on the debate.

Below, Dr. Pence looks at some of the broader philosophical and cultural biases which too often result in a superficial and sensationalist treatment of complex day care questions in the popular press.

The question of day care for preschool aged children is a topic guaranteed to generate discussion and reveal widely divergent opinions within any group of parents--a phenomena not lost on Canadian editors of the popular press. Lately, it seems that at least once every other week a parent (like myself) can open the local paper or a national journal and find a family advisor or national pundit presenting an opinionated commentary about the ramifications of where my child spends her day. In most cases the essence of the article can be distilled to read, "Is Day Care Good or Bad for your Child?".

As a parent I find the format of these articles, with their familiar quotations from this expert or that, not only repetitious but decidedly unhelpful and sometimes troubling. As a day care researcher I find the question essentially meaningless. The question these articles pose can only be expected to lead to confusion or to the retrenchment of biases readers may have; there is little that is clarifying, enlightening or useful in them from a perspective of problem solving or decision making. The question itself has become a part of the Canadian day care problem, rather than a part of a solution. The weakness of articles predicated on this question include, in part, the following:

1. Implicit within the question are ethnocentric assumptions that a definition of what constitutes a "good" mother by North American standards and how we define an appropriately behaved and well adjusted child are true world-wide; both assumptions are false. Patterns of caregiving and desirability of character traits are culturally determined and vary a great deal from society to society. The importance that the North American ethic has traditionally placed on largely exclusive maternal care for young children

and on fostering assertive individuality in our children are characteristic of a minority of societies around the world.

2. The question of "Day Care: Good or Bad?" belies the complexity of the interactions that take place within the triad of parent-child-caregiver. Even if day care were a relatively standardized experience, like public schooling (which it is not), the individuality of the child's development, in relation to a family's needs and attitudes towards care, combined with the idiosyncracies of the caregiving environment is sufficiently complex to negate any "experts" blanket recommendation for or against "day care". Perhaps the major statement that can be made about all of the research on day care that has taken place over the past fifteen years, is that we have yet to create sufficiently sensitive research designs and instruments to answer the complex and multi-dimensional questions that day care poses.

3. The presentation of the question Day Care: Good or Bad?" pre-supposes an element of free choice on the part of parents. To divorce the question of day care need from the reality of a business and labor force need for women workers, and an income need for both single and two parent families, is unrealistic. The three: child care, family, and labor force are inextricably bound and all too often the first two are made to suffer and are scapegoated for the demands of the third.

For parents who may or may not have a viable choice in working, there is often no choice in what kind of care they will use for their children. Governmentally Licensed or approved care for preschool aged children is available for a minority of those Canadian children believed to be in need of care. Very often selection of caregiving arrangements is a function of what is available, rather than what is preferred.

Perhaps the question, "Is Day Care Good or Bad?" is selected by journal writers because its very imponderability makes it wonderfully debatable and therefore "safe and saleable". "Experts" can be aligned on all facets of the debate and every reader can locate at least one "hero or heroine" to cheer on.

However, if the journalistic question that were put to Canadian readers was, "Does there exist a governmentally inspected, comprehensive system of quality child caring options for parents in a changing Canada?", the answer would be clear and indisputable--No!. If a second question followed: "Are there day care services and benefits models that exist in other countries that have proven effective in meeting children's and parent's needs?" or "Do we know how to create positive caregiving environments for preschool aged children?", the answer again would engender little debate, but this time be answered in the affirmative. In other words the message of the second group of questions, which could get us on the road to constructive action, is "Yes, there is a day care problem in Canada; yes, there are solutions that could be tried--and we are not trying them".

The real question then that Canadians are not being presented with in the popular press is, "Why are the needs of over one million Canadian children and their families not being realistically addressed by the public press and political bodies while other countries have recognized the tremendous problem and moved to resolve it". When the reality of that debate replaces the distracting superficiality of, "Is day care good or bad?" the time for responsible action, and responsible articles, on behalf of Canadian children and families may be at hand.

The CDCAA, of which I am a steering committee member, is now taking this question to politicians and policy makers. This non-profit, incorporated, membership based organization grew out of the 700 person Second Canadian Day Care Conference in Winnipeg September 1982. This organization has begun to articulate specific changes at the federal government level which will, in the short term, make high quality affordable day care accessible to more Canadian children and in the long term move Canada towards a comprehensive, universally accessible high quality public day care system.

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## Our thanks

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Much of the work of our Association could not have been accomplished this past year without the assistance of Anne Stanbury. Anne has been working part-time with our Chairperson in Saskatoon.

Anne, a single-parent with 2 teenage daughters, works part-time for our Association and 3/4-time for Advanced Education and Manpower in Saskatoon.

"In my spare time outside my work", says Anne, "I enjoy reading, gardening, dancing and, of course, watching T.V. However, that spare time has been limited recently. After all, I'm sure I'm the only one in Saskatoon with a wall-to-wall day care carpet".

Thanks Anne.

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## Worth quoting

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"The time is past when society can refuse to provide community child services in the hope of dissuading mothers from leaving their children and going out to work. We are faced with a situation that demands immediate action. Married women are entering employment in steadily rising numbers. Existing day care centres can only serve a small fraction of those mothers. If a mother has to work due to economic necessity, she has to have day care for her children. If day care centres are not available, these children are entrusted to relatives, or strangers, and for some the arrangements are completely inadequate and even harmful."

Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, 1970.

Canada is obliged to "encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities".

Article 11, 2-C, the United Nations Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

"Those men at Queen's Park, they think the women are at home looking after the kids, they think it should be like it was back when - but I was there and I can tell you it wasn't so great. I found it very, very hard. I did my best with the children but a friend of mine, she worked in a restaurant, she'd leave her kids upstairs locked in the apartment in front of the T.V. That's how she raised them. She had no choice."

Pat Bailey, mother, quoted by Judy Steed, feature writer for the Globe and Mail, January 1, 1984, in "Driven to the Wall, day-care defenders serve notice on government - They don't want welfare. They want affordable care."

"The major problems in the provision of accessible, available and affordable day care in Canada are cost, jurisdiction and attitudes. Although child care is a provincial responsibility, the federal government could participate to a greater extent and relieve some of the funding problems. The reality is that over 600,000 children under the age of seven have no access to day care, and there are probably over one million 'latch-key' children in Canada. The situation has worsened since it was examined by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1970, and if the present trend continues, it could become a major crisis in the future."

Report of the Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child, 1979.

"We have to find our own solution. Within our economic and social structures, some women work because they want to work; far more women work because they have to, simply to make ends meet. Ignoring this reality is not going to help the children. The crisis reported in these pages requires a positive and uniquely Canadian child-care system, with increased government support as an essential starting point.

"The question of day care is complicated even further by our failure to distinguish between the world as we would like it to be and the world as it is. We often see only what we want to see; we all tend to live in yesterdays that have all but disappeared. Defenders of the traditional family, no matter how sincere, can wreck havoc among the weakest members of our society if their beliefs prevent them from seeing what actually has happened to the family in our lifetime. When this human failing is combined with the slow-moving bureaucratic structures of the modern welfare state, the results can be as cruel as any of the Victorian atrocities that Charles Dickens described. Until we realize that good day care does not pose a



threat to family life - that it can, in fact, strengthen and enhance it by providing support to both parents and children - we will be faced with these results.

Peter Desbarats, forward to "The Kin Trade, The Day Care Crisis in Canada", by Laura C. Johnson and Janice Dineen.

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## Looking ahead

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A proposed budget and workplan for major projects in the 1984-1985 Year has now been prepared by the Association. This will be discussed by the newly-elected Steering Committee in late May. The major projects include:

- Establish a national office in Ottawa with a full-time co-ordinator and office manager.
- Strengthen our sub-committee structure to facilitate work at the federal level and broaden our base of support in the provinces and territories.
- Appoint an Advisory Committee on day care policy.
- Refine and publish our background paper on child care needs and solutions.
- Continue our membership and support drive.
- Choose 4 areas within the country where part-time co-ordinators will be hired to promote the work of the Association.
- Publish at least 2 newsletters.
- Create a bi-monthly gestetner quality membership information exchange service.
- Conduct a federal lobby and make child care a major issue in the upcoming federal election.
- Institute an ongoing evaluation system to monitor the work of the Association.
- Promote and work with existing provincial and territorial day care coalitions and advocacy groups.
- Improve the bilingual functioning of the Association.
- Begin discussions on the feasibility of hosting a national day care conference.
- Convene 3 meetings of the Executive Committee and 1 meeting of the Steering Committee.
- Secure more funding for the Association.

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## Write your minister

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The last Throne Speech stated that Day Care will be an item of discussion at a meeting of Judy Erola with Provincial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women early in 1984.

A meeting has now been scheduled for May 28, 1984 - and day care is on the agenda.

Write to Judy Erola. Write to your provincial Minister. Underline the importance of day care as a critically important social issue. Incorporate the government proposals the CDCAA has developed (see this newsletter). Highlight your own personal concerns and needs.

For your information, here is a list of Federal and Provincial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women:

### Federal Government:

Judy Erola  
Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
Room 707  
Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0A6

### British Columbia:

R.H. McClelland, M.L.A.  
Minister of Labour  
Parliament Buildings, Room 310  
VICTORIA, B.C. V8V 1X4

### Alberta:

Dick Johnston, M.L.A.  
Minister of Advanced Education  
127 Legislative Building  
EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2B6

### Saskatchewan:

Patricia Smith, M.L.A.  
Minister in Charge of the Status of Women  
361 Legislative Building  
REGINA, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

### Manitoba:

Mary Beth Dolin, M.L.A.  
Minister of Labour and Employment Services and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
343 Legislative Building  
WINNIPEG, Manitoba R3C 0V8

### Ontario:

Robert Welch, M.L.A.  
Deputy Premier and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues  
Room 180  
Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park,  
TORONTO, Ontario M7A 1A2

### Quebec:

Denise Leblanc-Bentey  
Ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine  
Edifice H, Bureau 2700  
875, Grande Allée est  
QUEBEC, Quebec G1R 4Y8

### New Brunswick

The Honourable Richard B. Hatfield, M.L.A.  
Premier  
Province of New Brunswick  
Centennial Building, Room 217  
FREDERICTON, N.B. E3B 5H1

### Newfoundland:

The Honourable Brian Peckford, M.L.A.  
Premier of Newfoundland  
8th Floor  
Confederation Building  
ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland A1C 5T7

### Nova Scotia

Terence R.B. Donahoe, M.L.A.  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
P.O. Box 578  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia B3J 2S9

Prince Edward Island  
Leone Bagnall, M.L.A.  
Minister of Education and Minister  
Responsible for the Status of Women  
P.O. Box 2000  
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. C1A 7N8

Yukon  
Clarke Ashley, M.L.A.  
Minister Responsible for the Status  
of Women and Minister of Justice  
P.O. Box 2703  
WHITEHORSE, Yukon Y1A 2C6

North West Territories  
Dennis G. Patterson, M.L.A.  
Minister Responsible for the Status  
of Women  
Government of North West Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T. K1A 2L9

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## We need your help

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We need your help for the second phase of our membership drive.

As you know, the CDCAA is a membership-based Association. Day care is about people like you, your neighbours, and their children. We want the CDCAA to be a people's Association. We also require a broadly-based constituency of support to show governments that a new majority of Canadians are looking for decisive and positive changes to day care policy and programs now.

For a young, voluntary, developing Association, our membership growth curve has been impressive. But we see this as only a modest beginning.

Now we need your help. We are asking each member to sign up 3, 5 or 10 friends. Approach your neighbours, other parents, people you work with.

Please use the membership form contained in this newsletter. If you wish, free bilingual brochures and membership forms can be ordered from our office in Saskatoon. Write to: CDCAA, P.O. Box 2064, Saskatoon, S7K 3S7.

Thank you.

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## Supporting and sustaining groups

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Healthsharing Inc.  
Congress of Canadian Women  
North Central Child Care Co-op Assoc.  
Nat. Assoc. of Women & Law, Sask. Caucus  
Sask. Teachers Fed.  
Big Sisters Assoc. of Stoon  
United Steelworkers of America, 7458  
C.U.P.E. Local 1921  
Sask. Working Women

Regina Junior Service League  
C.U.P.W., Saskatoon Local  
Alternatives for Single Parent Women  
Sask. U.F.C.W. Local 1400  
C.U.P.E. 2268  
Britannia Community Services Centre  
B.C. University Day Care Council  
B.C. Fed. of Labour  
Elizabeth Fry Society  
Soc. Ser. Employees of B.C.  
B.C. Day Care Action Coalition  
James Bay Child Care Soc.  
Victoria Status of Women  
Van. Island Early Childhood Ctr.  
Operators Assoc.  
B.C. Task Force on Immigrant Women  
Comox Valley Children's D.C. Soc.  
Western Canada Family D.C. Assoc. of B.C.  
Calgary Burns Memorial Fund  
U. of Alta. Academic Women's Assoc.  
Dr. Margaret Savage Women's Crisis Ctr.  
Nova Scotia Women's Liberal Commission  
R.A.S.G.M.F.Q., Quebec  
C.U.P.E. Local 82  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
C.U.P.E. Local 974  
C.U.P.E., National Office, Ottawa  
C.U.P.E. Local 79  
Action Child Care, Saskatchewan  
CUPE, Metro Vancouver Dist. Council  
P.E.I. Adv. Council on the Status of  
Women  
C.U.P.E., B.C. Division  
Legal Resource Centre, Alberta  
I.O.D.E. Prov. Chapter of Alberta  
River Avenue Co-op Day Nursery, Inc.  
Winnipeg Comm. Educ. & Dev. Assoc.  
Women's Bureau, Prov. of Man.  
Man. Child Care Assoc. Inc.  
Ottawa Carleton Day Care Assoc.  
Mini Skool Ltd.  
Canadian Advisory Council  
Status of Women Canada  
Great Northern Apparel  
Centennial College, ECE Prog.  
Ottawa & District Labour Council  
"Tuesday Special"  
Doc. Ctre., C.A.C.S.W.  
Levis Strauss & Co.  
O.P.E.I.U. 491  
Family Benefits Work Group in Ont.  
Early Childhood Dev. Assoc. of P.E.I.  
Office & Prof. Emp. Int. Union, Local 225  
Ottawa Newspaper Guild  
C.U.P.E. Local 1996  
C.U.P.E. Local 1953  
Pre-School Educ. Assoc. of N.S.  
Nova Scotia Nurses Union  
Kinette Club of Charlottetown  
P.E.I. Home Econ. Assoc.  
Faculty of Child Study, Mt. St. Vincent  
Nova Scotia Assoc. of Social Workers  
Prov. Adv. Council on the Status of  
Women, Nfld. & Labrador  
Corner Brook Status of Women Council  
Dawson Child Care Assoc.  
Sask. Action Committee, Status of Women  
Sask. Gov't Empl. Union  
Sask. Democratic Women  
Ottawa D.C. Workers, CUPE  
Legal Resource Centre, Edmonton  
Holland College Charlottetown Centre  
Child Dev. Services Guild, Truro, N.S.

As of March, 1984, 172 day care centres have also joined.

**CANADIAN DAY CARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION**  
●  
**ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA PROMOTION  
DES SERVICES DE GARDE A L'ENFANCE**

It's time to give our children the care and the opportunities that they deserve!

Parents across the country want affordable, accessible, high quality day care ... NOW!

And yet day care is in a state of paralysis, if not serious crisis.

The overall problem is a lack of financial commitment to the service on the part of governments.

The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association was formed to address this problem.

The Association arose from the 2nd Canadian Day Care Conference held in Winnipeg in September, 1982. Over 700 delegates attended. And now a steering committee and executive representing all provinces and territories have been elected.

It's the first time a united Canadian voice for day care has been created.

The primary goal of the Association is an expanded and improved day care service that addresses the needs of children, parents and day care providers. Emphasis is placed on high quality care and evolving toward a comprehensive public day care service.

It's an exciting prospect for the future that together we can work toward proper government funding and an improved, enriched setting for our children.

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**Join the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association**

\$3                       \$12                       \$20                         
Individual Member    Day Care Centre            Local Group                      Contribution

Please send more information in:

- English  
 French

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to:

**CANADIAN DAY CARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 2064  
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN  
S7K 3S7**