

Government action is needed

Governments in Canada must recognize child care as a basic social service, not a welfare programme. They must make a commitment to build a Canada-wide system of universal, quality child care.

NAC calls on governments to begin immediately to negotiate a new federal-provincial agreement for sharing the costs of child care. This agreement should be expressed in a new Child Care Financing Act introduced as soon as possible in the federal parliament.

NAC opposes attempts by governments to bury their heads in the sand by responding to the demand for quality child care through piece-meal measures. Specifically, NAC opposes the channelling of new public funds to profit-making child care centres and the use of the tax system to put a few extra dollars in the hands of child care users.

Public funds must go to the creation of new, quality, non-profit and public child care services.

“ We believe that child care is the social policy issue of the decade. The next five years represent a turning point during which concrete action to begin to transform child care and parental leave policies into a true system must take place. We can no longer take an ostrich-like approach, burying our heads in the sand while ignoring the developing crisis around us. ”

Report of the Task Force on Child Care (1986)



I am interested in being actively involved in NAC's fight for a Canada-wide system of quality child care. Please put my name on your mailing list.

Name

Address

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Phone

Organization (if any)

Mail to:
Child Care Sub-committee,
National Action Committee
on the Status of Women,
344 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario.



**NATIONAL
ACTION
COMMITTEE**
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

A Canada-wide child care system

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women supports a comprehensive system of services for pre-school and school-age children. At the centre of such a system would be group care for children in child care centres. This would be supplemented by licenced family home care for children and parents with special needs.

A flexible system of quality child care should be:

Universally accessible Child care is not a welfare measure but a necessary social service. It must be available to all parents who choose to use it.

Publicly funded Child care, like the school system, must be supported out of public funds.

Non-profit There is no margin for profit in quality, accessible child care. Public funds should not subsidize commercial operators.

Regulated All Child care services must be monitored to ensure that they maintain high standards with respect to the emotional and intellectual development and physical care of children.

Democratic Parents must be given a significant role in the running of child care centres. Child care workers must also have a voice in the decision-making of centres.

Fair Child care workers should not subsidize services through their low wages. They must receive fair compensation for their training and labour.

Egalitarian Child care programmes should promote the full development of all children. Respect for each child regardless of sex, race, ethnic or religious background must be encouraged.



Who needs a comprehensive system of child care?

Children do Canada's children deserve the best our country can afford. Resources must be channelled into a system of high quality, non-profit and public child care.

Women do The Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1970 and the Royal Commission on Equality in Employment in 1984 recognized child care services as an essential condition for the achievement of the equality of men and women.

Men do More and more fathers are sharing in the child care responsibilities of families. Women's equality and good child care are goals of men as well as women.

Canada does A system of high quality child care is a good investment in the future for all of us.