

Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare

FACT SHEET - A CHILDCARE SYSTEM



DAY CARE IN ONTARIO

CHILD POPULATION: There are 713,291 children under 6 in Ontario
 There are 602,052 children 6 - 10 in Ontario

DAY CARE SPACES: Yet, there are only 73,860 licensed group day care spaces
 And only 6,455 supervised private home day care spaces

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN LICENSED DAY CARE: This means that the total of 80,315 licensed day care spaces will only accommodate 6% of Ontario's eligible children.

DAY CARE CENTRES: There are 2,003 day care facilities.

Public:	166 centres	3,203 spaces
Non-profit:	981 centres	31,320 spaces
Commercial:	829 centres	33,493 spaces
Indian band:	27 centres	844 spaces

PRIVATE HOME DAY CARE: There are 3,089 approved private home day care homes
 There are 55 private home day care agencies.

SUBSIDIZED DAY CARE: There are 22,452 children receiving day care subsidy.
 This means that 30% of children in licensed care receive a subsidy; the rest must pay the full fee.

FEES: The Province of Ontario estimates the following average fees:

0-18 months	\$20.59 per day
19 mths-30 "	17.70 per day
30 mths-5 years	16.38 per day
6-10 years	12.44 per day

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE: In 1984, women accounted for 43.4% of the workforce.
 The participation rate for women was 57%.
 The participation rate for women between 25-44 (child-bearing/rearing years) was 73.7%.

Source: Ontario Women's Directorate, 1984 estimates.

Participation Rates of Women in the Ontario Labour Force by presence of children, by age of youngest child, 1975 & 1984

Age of Youngest Child	Participation Rate	
	1975	1984
Under 3	36.6%	56.5%
3 - 5 years	46.2%	63.4%
6-15 years	55.0%	69.7%
Under 6 years	40.6%	59.1%
Under 16	48.0%	64.6%

Source: Ministry of Community and Social Services, Day Nurseries Information System as at June 30, 1985. *Fees estimated based on small sample.

New Federal Policy

We Do Not Want.....

1. INCOME REDISTRIBUTION SCHEMES

We need a childcare system that will work for Canadian families. Substitutes like tax vouchers, child care deductions do not build a system of childcare.

2. PROFIT- MAKING CHILDCARE

Good childcare must be non-profit, and parent-controlled. Serious concerns have been raised about the quality of commercial childcare.

3. LIMITED CHILDCARE OPTIONS

We need a range of services to meet the needs of the contemporary Canadian family. Without access to a choice of childcare services, families still experience problems.

4. UNREGULATED, INFORMAL CHILDCARE

Families need good quality, reliable childcare arrangements. Solutions which propose unlicensed, informal care as a cheaper solution to the daycare crisis are unacceptable.

5. INEQUITABLE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

All children must have the same right of access to childcare. Only a universally-accessible system of childcare will guarantee this.

6. USER-FEE CHILDCARE

User-fee childcare bars many children from service. We need a publicly-funded system to serve families.

SOURCE: Materials prepared for a workshop on childcare at the 1986 annual meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women by the Daycare Resource and Research Unit, University of Toronto

The Daycare Community Wants.....

1. A CHILDCARE SYSTEM

We need the creation of a Canadian childcare system more than we need public dollars spent on tax deductions, tax credits or vouchers.

2. NON-PROFIT CHILDCARE

Public dollars should not support commercial childcare. There is no profit to be made from providing good quality childcare and by adequately compensating trained staff.

3. COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Instead of piecemeal and fragmented childcare, we need a well-planned, coordinated range of childcare services that will offer parents real flexibility and choice.

4. LICENSED, REGULATED CARE

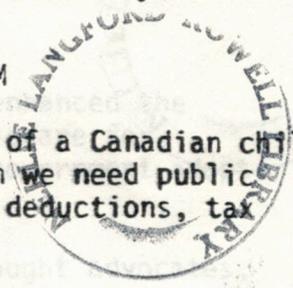
Children and their families need high quality childcare. Unlicensed, unsupervised, informal childcare is not a solution to the Canadian daycare crisis.

5. UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE

Many families are barred from childcare services because of accessibility and/or affordability problems. We believe that all Canadian families should have access to good quality childcare.

6. PUBLICLY-FUNDED CHILDCARE

Just as Canadians have supported the use of public dollars to fund universal education and health plans, daycare should be publicly-funded. Without public dollars, a universal system will never be a reality.



CHILD CARE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

NOW A MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE

In the past five years, a series of significant activities have enhanced the profile of the federal government regarding the provision of childcare for Canadians. Advocacy has increasingly demanded that the federal government adopt a new policy role.

1982: THE SECOND CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON DAY CARE in Winnipeg brought advocates, practitioners, early childhood experts and policy makers from across Canada together for the first time in 10 years. A tumultuous and exciting conference grabbed media attention and had several concrete outcomes: resolutions calling for enactment of national legislation which would provide a universally-accessible, high quality, non-profit childcare system, and a mandate to format a broad-based advocacy organization to promote the demands of the Conference.

1983: THE CANADIAN DAY CARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION was established with representation elected from each province and territory to advocate for the establishment of a universally-accessible non-profit publically funded childcare system.

1984: The Liberal government established the TASK FORCE ON CHILD CARE to make recommendations to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women "concerning the federal government's role in the development of a system of quality child care in Canada."

Leaders of all three political parties included action on Childcare in their lists of promises on women's issues in preparation for a FEDERAL ELECTION. In a debate on women's issues arranged by NAC, Brian Mulroney promised a Parliamentary Task Force on Childcare under a Conservative government.

1985: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced the establishment of the Conservative's promised Special Committee on Child Care in November.

1986: The report of the Liberal-established Task Force on Child Care, which has continued to work since 1984, was made public, recommending the development, over a 15-year period, of a fully publicly-funded comprehensive, high quality, non-profit system of child care and parental leave. The Cooke Task Force commissioned a substantial body of research, received thousands of briefs and letters from the public, experts, and interest groups and cost almost \$1,000,000.

Almost simultaneously with the release of the Cooke Report, the Conservative-established Special Committee on Child Care began a series of public hearings across the country, established procedures to receive written briefs and letters and set out to study childcare once again. The full cost is not yet known. The differences between the Cooke Task Force and the Special Committee on Child Care are important to note. The Cooke Task Force was composed of four non-governmental appointed members, chosen for expertise in child care, economics, women's issues and sociology, and the law, and reported to a Minister. The Special Committee on Child Care is composed of Members of the House of Commons including five Conservatives, one Liberal and one New Democrat; the Special Committee's report will be tabled in the House of Commons by March 31, 1987.