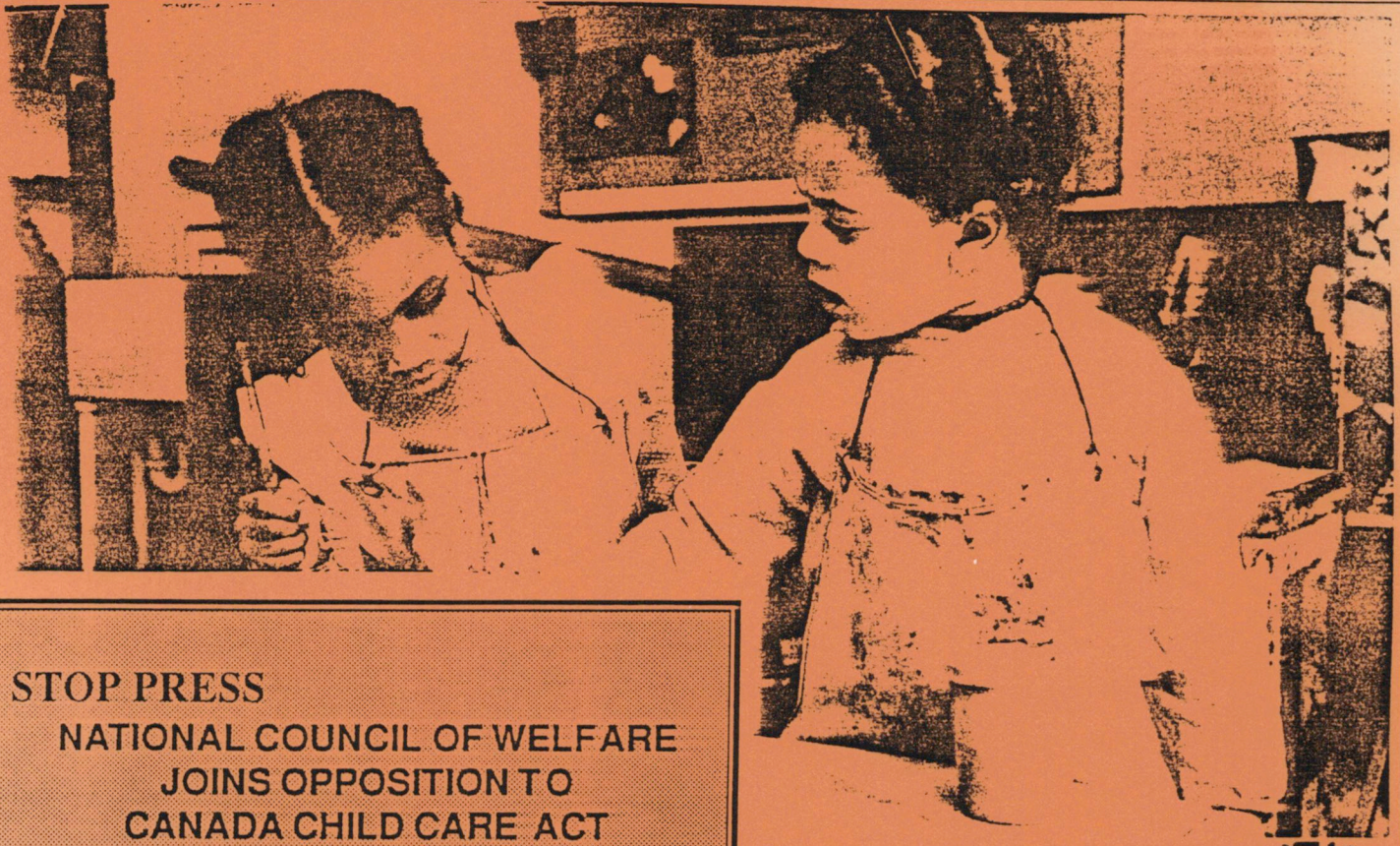


CHILD CARE

Challenge

NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER DAYCARE

HAPPY NEW CHILD CARE YEAR!



STOP PRESS

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WELFARE
JOINS OPPOSITION TO
CANADA CHILD CARE ACT**

As we go to Press, we have just received a copy of the report by the National Council of Welfare: *Child Care A Better Alternative*.

The Report analyzes the impact of the *Canada Child Care Act* on the future Canadian child care system and concludes that too much money is being spent on tax deductions/credits, not enough money is going into the creation of spaces and that maternity and parental leaves should be improved.

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Will Child Care Staff Benefit from Pay Equity?
- Direct Operating Grants - "Here to Stay"
-Says Minister
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Committee Report
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Report on U.S. Elections and more...

297 ST. GEORGE STREET, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5C 2P8 (416) 324-9080

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM COALITION PRESIDENT

As we approach the New Year and dust off the crystal ball, it seems fitting to glance back to the events of the past year.

1988 brought many ironies to us in the child care movement. In the release of the government's Federal Strategy on Child Care in December, 1987, there was conclusive evidence that child care had become a major federal issue. For those of us who have worked for many years toward this key accomplishment and have plugged away at writing briefs, organizing meetings, educating and cajoling press contacts and planning public events, this announcement was a mixed message at best. As advocates interested in achieving a comprehensive, high quality child care system for Canada, I believe that we can and should claim some credit for the prominence of child care as a national issue.

As individuals, as local organizations and as a Coalition, we loudly raised our objections to the cleverly-crafted document that the government hoped would be the centrepiece of its social policy agenda. This was not an easy task.

While facing the popular perception that \$4 billion dollars is better than what we have now, we spoke up so effectively that the government added another \$1 billion dollars to the allotment for child care. However, by the time that was announced, the provinces had also begun to raise their concerns about the long-term inadequacies of Bill C-144. We continued to argue that an additional billion dollars for child care would not alter the fundamental problems of the federal legislation.

As part of a broad based Coalition of national groups and concerned individuals, we helped to block the passage of the proposed *Canada Child Care Act* on the brink of the federal election. In the stifling heat of one of the hottest Augusts on record, we joined the national effort and pulled out every lobbying strategy imaginable. The support of the opposition parties was, of course, essential.

An underlying theme for many was the expectation that we would not face the same majority government after the election.

Now that we in fact face a majority government, we must re-examine our strategy during the next few months as the government recesses until March. As this newsletter goes to press, the National Council on Welfare, a government appointed advisory body, is releasing a paper which rejects the child care legislation and calls on the government to allocate more funds but to direct them only to the creation of new child care spaces. This sounds like the next scrimmage has begun!

As we all try to take a well deserved break during this holiday season, collect your thoughts for the next stage of the struggle. In Ontario, we need to continue to remind the Peterson government that it cannot live on its promise to make child care a public service without delivering the requisite resources - subsidies to all who are eligible and waiting, for a first step; larger direct operating grants which will both raise salaries and lower fees; a specific plan to implement income-testing in 1989; and, a bona fide conversion plan which will encourage commercial child care operators to convert to non-profit status and really move Ontario towards a non-profit system.

I want to thank the outgoing Executive for many hours of volunteer time and to welcome the new Executive. The new Executive has already had one meeting and we are preparing for the February Council meeting. The New Year promises to keep us active.

Laurel Rothman

OCBCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Laurel Rothman	Action Day Care (President)
Janet Davis	Individual Rep. (Vice President)
Ed Alexander	Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Assoc. (Treasurer)
Lesley Russell	Hamilton Daycare Coalition (Past Pres.)
Trisha Keyes-Bevan	York Day Care Coalition
Fiona Knight	Ontario Federation of Students
Sue Hunter	Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto
Barbara Cameron	Ontario Federation of Labour
Anita Price	Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care
Lesley Peat	London Coalition for Better Daycare
Christine Brooks Association	Ottawa-Carleton Day Care
Cheryl West	Individual Rep (Toronto)

COMMENTS WELCOME

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care thrives on input. Whether it's information about what is happening in your community, information you would like to share about your program, ideas for a story, letters with your thoughts about the *Challenge*, your criticisms of our actions/campaigns, your photos, local news clippings, cartoons - anything - we would welcome it. It's the way we keep in touch with you and can hopefully respond to the needs of the day care movements. So, pick up your pen today, and write us a note - or phone us - we'd love to hear from you!

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care has offices at 297 St. George Street, Toronto, Ont. M5C 2P8 (416) 324-9080. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Staff:

Sue Colley, Executive Coordinator
Eileen Condon, Office Manager
Fran Mallandrino and Michelle Glassford
Administrative Assistants

THE CHALLENGE

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Please submit news of interest, your comments, graphics, press clippings.

Editor: Lesley Russell
Production: Sue Colley
Photos complements of
Sonia Ostrowska

Dear OCBCC:

We came from the conference so charged up we went right ahead with our plans to form a local coalition. We had our organizational meeting November 29 and had a good response, I think. We had eleven people come out, two of whom were parents. We had Brenda Rooms and Leslie Peat from the London Coalition come and speak to us. The Oxford Coalition for Better Child Care is what we will call our group. We began to discuss a philosophy, goals, and executive but we will need to complete this at our next meeting. We have a community based meeting place. We decided to keep our meeting out of schools so that the coalition would not be linked with any school in particular. We've set our next meeting for January 31, 1989. We would like to have a video for our next meeting. Could you send us the video "The Price of Profit" for Jan. 31? The London branch said these videos were available upon request.

Also, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity of addressing Mr. Sweeney at the lobby on November 7, 1988. Our question was regarding the distribution and accountability of the D.O.G. We followed this up with several calls to Sweeney and our local M.P.P. to get some follow up answers from them. We finally got results three weeks later with a call from Sweeney's office. His aide informed us it was okay for the D.O.G. to be used to replace transitional grants and that COMSOC is a decentralized ministry. So basically the government can do whatever the hell they want!

We have settled the D.O.G. for 1988 - it was like a slap in the face. Full-time teachers received \$1,400.00, taking home only \$1,013.00. Our negotiations (we are unionized with C.U.P.E.) start this January and will have to stand strong to get more D.O.G. Our centre is trying to become more involved with C.U.P.E. making child care an immediate issue. One of our staff will be on the C.U.P.E. Social Service Committee and on our local executive.

The two staff from our centre thoroughly enjoyed the conference in November. We did some important networking, gained an abundance of knowledge, confidence and enthusiasm. We were extremely impressed with the organization and dedication the Executive showed. We would appreciate hearing back regarding the video. We appreciate your time spent to respond.

Thanks once again

Cathy Austin
 Kathy Bowman



Last fall, hard work by childcare advocates, cooperation from opposition parties and poor planning by the federal government delayed passage of the regressive Canada Child Care Act so that the legislation died with the election call. Childcare advocates rejoiced at the bill's demise. As childcare was to be an important election issue for all three parties, presumably the election campaign would provide an opportunity to re-emphasize the principles shared by the OCBCC, the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, NAC, labour groups and a list of other organizations which had grown to include the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO), Inuit Women's Association, Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Jewish Congress, Canadian Federation of Nurses, Canadian Association of Social Workers, and others.

As the election campaign opened in October, a fuzzy Liberal

position on childcare was announced by an ill-prepared John Turner at a Montreal press conference, creating the first in a series of Liberal campaign debacles. Following the televised Leaders' debate, free trade eclipsed all other issues and childcare, like other topics, was not addressed in a major way by any of the parties. However, childcare advocates across the country used and created opportunities to raise childcare as an issue; one of the most successful events was the rain-soaked march to Tory headquarters during the OCBCC's annual conference in Toronto.

An interesting memo materialized in the press shortly before the end of the election campaign. Written in August by childcare officials from all provinces except Quebec, the memo criticized both the content of The Canada Child Care Act and the federal government's process in introducing it. The strongly worded memo reinforced many of the points made by groups opposed to the

CHILD CARE ACT STILL ON FEDERAL AGENDA!

Act scheduled to be tabled in March

legislation, especially regarding new limitations on federal childcare funding.

On November 21, a Conservative majority government, promising, among other things to reintroduce The Canada Child Care Act quickly, was re-elected. Following the election, rumours that childcare, together with the free trade legislation, would be introduced by the Tories before Christmas struck a chord of fear and loathing in the childcare community. Only free trade, however, was introduced, allowing us several months before the resumption of Parliament to organize against the proposed legislation.

The first "shot" in the post-election opposition to the proposed childcare bill came from a new and unexpected quarter, The National Council on Welfare, a group appointed to serve in an advisory capacity to Health and Welfare Canada. The Council,

which had not previously commented on the childcare legislation, issued an intelligent report detailing an alternative childcare proposal and reiterating the criticisms expressed by the OCBCC and all of the other opposers--limits to federal cost-sharing, heavy reliance on regressive and inefficient tax measures rather than system-creation, public spending for poorer quality commercial services, lack of criteria for federal spending and omission of improvements to parental leave policy.

It now seems likely that the childcare legislation will be introduced in a form identical or similar to the bill which died with the election call when Parliament resumes in February or March. There is a considerable amount of work to do in the new year in preparation for this reintroduction. The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association and NAC are likely to take an active role at the national level, working with the other groups which opposed Bill C-144, most of whom are showing keen interest in opposing the legislation again. Opposition could take the form of lobbying members of the new Parliament (especially in home constituencies), letter writing, public demonstrations of opposition, and actions by the Opposition parties. Approaches to provincial governments, in light of their criticism of the legislation, would be extremely useful. Ontario is a key player in the federal-provincial discussions and the Ontario government has expressed misgivings about the childcare legislation publicly (in the memo from provincial officials and in media interviews).

What can you do in the meantime? During the Parliamentary recess, contact (either individually or in a group) your newly elected MP at her/his constituency office and acquaint the MP with your opinion that unless the legislation is considerably amended, that you will be strongly and actively opposing it as a step backwards, not forwards. If your MP is a Liberal or New Democrat, ask him or her to act in the House of Commons to oppose the Conservative's legislation. Second, be ready to participate in activities organized to demonstrate opposition to the legislation.

Even with a Conservative majority making public commitment to passing this regressive legislation, we're still a long way from its passage...remember that "it ain't over 'til it's over" (Yogi Berra, 1961 World Series).

Martha Friendly

NEW NATIONAL SALES TAX WILL HIT DAY CARE!

Consultations on the new National Sales Tax will begin in 1989. For a full analysis of the impact of this proposed tax on child care, see the next issue of the *Challenge*.

We will have to figure out a strategy to deal with this new tax which could increase parent fees by as much as 20%. In the meantime, you can write expressing your concerns to Michael Wilson, Minister of Finance, Department of Finance, 16th Floor, 140 O'Connor Ave.

K1A 0G5



SUBSIDY CRISIS DEEPENS!

As we reported in the Summer newsletter, Ontario is in the midst of a childcare subsidy crisis which threatens to erode our childcare system. In July, the provincial government announced that it would not pay for any more new subsidized daycare spaces in 1988 despite waiting lists exceeding 7,000. The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care met with Premier David Peterson and Minister of Community and Social Services, John Sweeney on October 19 and were told - in no uncertain terms - that there would be no further money for day care subsidies in this budget year.

Across Metro Toronto there are 5,000 families on the waiting list for subsidized care. All of these people have qualified for subsidy but they cannot get it. In other areas of the province, subsidy waiting lists are beginning to grow where there weren't waiting lists before.

The provincial government has decided to fund only 648 of the 1500 new subsidized spaces that Metro has expanded in 1988. Metro Toronto has agreed to fund the remaining 852 spaces with 100% dollars for 1988, at a cost of \$2.1 million plus an additional \$4.8 million for increased per diems. Not only does Metro have to pay the provincial portion of 30%, but it also has to cover the federal government's 50% share.

And what will happen next year? In 1989 the provincial government is only planning to provide 700 new spaces for Metro Toronto. This figure represents a shortfall in the number of spaces allocated in 1989 by 152. This means many parents will be left on the waiting list just as they were in 1988. Can municipal governments really be expected to continue funding spaces at 100%?

The provincial government's solution to this crisis is to suggest that Metro Toronto is being extravagant with its day care dollars; that many parents are being subsidized at high income levels such as \$40,000 per year - and that Metro Toronto should cut its waiting list down to size by prioritizing the most needy parents first. The needs test used by Metro Toronto already establishes that families qualify for subsidy. It is shocking that a government that promises it is working towards childcare as a public service is asking the municipality to prioritize already eligible families. It is obviously a regressive and uninspired solution to the problem.

FREE TRADE ARRIVES TO THE TUNE OF MINI-SKOOL ADS!

The day after Free Trade became official on New Year's Day, Mini-Skool ads were heard across the radio waves. Promising high quality service and a worry-free environment, child care advocates across the province got a first-hand glimpse of what the future beholds: child care American style! It's the wave of the future!

At the moment there seems to be a fair amount of movement in the subsidy waiting list. The normal turnover is 800 but 1,100 have turned over since September. Metro Child Care Services attributes this movement to a higher than normal exit from the system of 5 to 9 year olds. They also report that a higher number than usual are leaving the system altogether. However, in spite of this new found fluidity, there are still enormous numbers of families on the waiting list.

Fran Mallandrino



DOG TO STAY!

In response to concerns about the future of the DOG raised at a meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee on October 5, 1988, John Sweeney, Minister of Community and Social Services has now confirmed in writing:

"I would like to assure you that the existing direct grant program is open-ended, that the funding is ongoing and eligible for the annual economic adjustment that is provided for all base ministry programs."

A full report on the implementation of the direct operating grants will not be available until the next issue of the *Challenge* goes to press. However, Ministry officials have determined that the vast majority of the funds was distributed to staff and that the non-salary usage of the money was small in terms of actual dollars and in numbers of centres.

Some day care workers clearly lost out, however. The average amount received from the grant by day care workers from our survey amounted to \$3,400. If the grant was not solely directed to wages and benefits (as demanded by the Coalition), but was distributed to other items such as equipment, or reducing parent fees, then day care workers would have received less than this amount. In some instances, the grant was returned to the Ministry because management refused to open up the collective agreement to allow the distribution of funds to the workers. These workers received nothing.

Day care workers from Woodstock Municipal Day

Nursery are an example of the problem. At the fall lobby Kathy Bowman asked Mr. Sweeney why her fellow day care workers had not received the full amount of the direct operating grant for wages. The starting wage for a child care teacher in Woodstock is \$16,500 per annum. She wanted Mr. Sweeney to guarantee the proper use of the DOGs - to salaries.

Mr. Sweeney confirmed that there were two uses for the DOG money - Priority 1 for wages and priority 2 to reduce parent fees. He agreed to look into the Woodstock case personally.

Since that time, John Sweeney's office and the Child Care Branch have been in touch with Kathy from Woodstock. The Ministry told Kathy that the municipality was perfectly within its rights to give the workers only a portion of the DOG for wages and to use the balance to reduce the **transitional grant** (an amount the province provides to municipalities to assist them in their day care costs over and above the day care subsidies). Consequently, workers at Woodstock have only received \$1,400 (less deductions) in the form of a DOG bonus. (see LETTERS)

It is clear that there has been far too much discretion on the part of individual municipalities and area offices. This has led to uneven distribution of the grant and therefore a further differentiation of wages, based on how much DOG a worker received.

Please let us know if you did not receive *at least* the average day care grant and why?

INCOME TESTING STILL STALLED

Brian Stannish has now been appointed Manager of the Funding Unit Project to the Child Care Branch, replacing Helen Riley who is currently on leave from the Branch. The province is now aiming to move to income-testing by 1990.

The Funding Unit is currently involved in studying the impact of income-testing on the population as a whole. They hope to produce a discussion paper by summer, 1989 with policy options for the implementation of income testing. They are also considering who should be consulted on the development of these options at the current time. The question is: *What is the future of the Funding Advisory Committee???*

SCHOOL-AGE/ SCHOOL-BASED CHILD CARE INITIATIVES

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and the Ministry of Education (MOE) are undertaking independent and joint initiatives related to school-age and school-based child care. MCSS will maintain its "primary" responsibility for child care, with MOE in a "supportive" role.

MCSS will continue to provide capital and start-up funds for centres in vacant existing

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school space, and start-up funds for centres in new schools. MOE is providing capital funds for 92 new, exclusive-use child care centres in new schools. MOE is also encouraging all boards of education to make vacant space available for child care.

Both ministries are undertaking rounds of consultation. MCSS has a School-Age Child Care Advisory Committee with representation from a variety of groups including school boards, community and recreation groups, boys and girls clubs and community colleges. This committee has met once, and examined an "issues" paper. MOE also has an advisory committee, which has met once, with representation primarily from education related groups (OCBCC is represented). As well, there has been a round of "joint" consultations. Representatives from both ministries travelled to 9 communities across the province to examine issues related to school-aged/school-based child care.

Ministry of Community and Social Services

A "legislative group" is now in place at MCSS, with a mandate to revise the Day Nurseries Act. The ministry wishes to change the physical standards for school-age care to increase "flexibility" for this age group; in particular, the regulations on playground fences, windows, and washrooms are being examined. MCSS has contracted consultants to undertake two pieces of research: a survey of existing school-age programs (approx. 635 in Ont.); a survey of parent and child needs and preferences for care for 4 to 13

year olds. This will include "focus groups" with children to hear their views.

The Ministry will also begin a "dialogue" with other community organizations i.e. recreation, boys and girls clubs etc. to examine possible ways to collaborate on child care for older school-age children. The issue of transportation will also be examined.

Pilot projects which "demonstrate new models of service for school-age children" will begin in the fall of 1989. Guidelines are being prepared now and should be distributed shortly. Proposals will be received in June 1989.

Ministry of Education

MOE has just completed and distributed a consultation paper entitled "Proposed Ministry of Education Direction for Child Care". It is available from the Centre for Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Mowat Block, 17th Floor, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1L2. Comments are to be submitted by January 31, 1989. The next issue of the newsletter will summarize the OCBCC submission.

MOE is also undertaking research and funding pilot projects in 1989. The research will assess 40 - 50 school-age programs to identify indicators of quality in school-age programming. Pilot projects to begin in September of 1989 will be selected from proposals in June, and will demonstrate models of program collaboration and co-operation between child care and school programs.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WOMEN WORKERS EXCLUDED FROM PAY EQUITY ACT

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care has been working with the Equal Pay Coalition over the past year to ensure that day care workers and other women workers do not get left out of the Pay Equity Act because they have no men in their workplaces with whom to compare their wages.



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On December 13, the Equal Pay Coalition urged the Pay Equity Commission to recommend sweeping changes to the Pay Equity Act to ensure coverage for all women workers. "Many hundreds of thousands of women workers will be excluded from the Act", said Mary Cornish, spokesperson for the Equal Pay Coalition, "and we urge the Government to amend the Pay Equity Act to ensure universal coverage for all Ontario women as required by International Labour standards for pay equity."

The Ontario Government won a majority mandate from electors in the fall of 1987 on a platform which focussed on its promise of bringing pay equity to women's work.

Yet, in spite of these commitments and promises, the restrictions and loopholes in the Pay Equity Act mean that a substantial percentage of women workers in Ontario are not protected, close to thirty-five percent!

As a result of lobbying by the Coalition and other groups, the

Pay Equity Commission was mandated to study the exclusion of these women from the Act and to recommend to the Minister of Labour by December 31, 1988 effective measures to redress this discrimination.

Large numbers of women working in undervalued "women's work" will not get pay equity adjustments because they work in workplaces with no male jobs e.g. day care workers, or, they work in establishments where the male job is not of comparable value. As a result, their undervaluation becomes invisible under the present Act and employers can continue to pay them discriminatory wages. Sectoral studies commissioned by the Pay Equity Commission paint a similar but shocking picture of the many hundreds of thousands of Ontario women who will be excluded from coverage unless the Ontario Government takes immediate action to amend the Act to include them.

According to the sectoral studies the following groups of women will likely be excluded

from the Act's coverage, not because their wages are not undervalued, but because they do not either have any male comparators in their establishment or there is no appropriate male comparator:

- (a) Health care workers (e.g. nurses and other staff working for the VON and in nursing homes or small hospitals, lab technologists, visiting homemakers);
- (b) Clothing Manufacturing workers;
- (c) Personal service workers (e.g. laundry workers, hairdressers and hairstylists, live-in and live-out housekeepers and nannies);
- (d) Community and Social Service workers (e.g. counsellors, support workers with the elderly and handicapped, clerical support staff, shelter workers, staff providing services for immigrants, visible minority and native people);
- (e) Child care workers;
- (f) Library workers;
- (g) Travel agency employees and female employees in all but the largest cultural institutions.

And this is certainly not a complete list of all those who will be excluded. Many thousands of clerical workers in the manufacturing sector, female sales clerks, cashiers and clerical staff in the retail sector, and female hotel and restaurant employees, had no appropriate male comparators clearly identified in the sectoral studies.

In addition, there are many other predominantly female job categories which the Commission failed to study where appropriate male comparators may well be lacking. These include the thousands of workers who are:



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- (a) Clerical employees in financial and business services sectors (e.g. insurance, trust companies, banks, real estate and advertising firms);
- (b) Clerical workers employed by temporary agencies;
- (c) Clerical workers employed by professionals (e.g. doctors, dentists, lawyers, architects).

Furthermore, 238,000 women work in establishments with less than 10 employees and are thereby excluded from this Act and approximately 200,000 of the 481,000 women in Ontario who work part-time are excluded because of the way in which the Act defines casual workers.

Immigrant and visible minority women who most need the protection of the legislation appear to be the most disadvantaged since they are concentrated in many of the jobs and sectors noted above.

The Equal Pay Coalition made a number of immediate recommendations to the Pay Equity Commission which can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Include workplaces with less than ten employees under the Act.
- 2. Include all casual workers under the Act.
- 3. Extend the definition of establishment to a corporate definition, so that more women workers can find male job classes to compare with.
- 4. Allow proportionate compari-

sons when equal value comparisons are not available.

- 5. Allow women to apply to the Pay Equity Tribunal for adjustments when the above mechanisms do not work.
- 6. In the case of Public Sector workers, establish a Pay Equity Fund to pay for pay equity adjustments. Library workers should be able to consider their funding municipality as the employer so that they may compare with male job classes in the municipality. Child care workers should be able to apply the dollar pay equity adjustment provided for child care workers in a community college or municipality. Other classifications, such as visiting homemakers, should be able to take the equivalent dollar adjustments as those worked out for workers where there are male job classes.
- 7. In addition, the Government

should increase the minimum wage to \$8.30 per hour, introduce legislation removing the obstacles to unionization, implement strong employment equity legislation and provide more protection for part-time workers under the Employment Standards Act.

The Government's Pay Equity Act represented a significant but inadequate step in the fight to redress the massive discrimination faced by women workers every week in their compensation packages. Without speedy passage of laws to implement our recommendations, the Liberal Government's promises of pay equity for all Ontario women will be a sham.

The Coalition has called on the Pay Equity Commission to play a strong leadership role in recommending to the Minister comprehensive and effective measures to ensure all women in undervalued jobs receive their pay equity adjustments.



Licensed Child Care Spaces and Children of Working or Studying Parents, 1987

	Number of Licensed Child Care spaces	Number of Children Under 13 with Parents Outside the Home	Percentage of Children under 13 in Licensed Child Care
British Columbia	18,595	184,631	10%
Alberta	43,082	213,452	20
Saskatchewan	5,720	84,586	7
Manitoba	10,526	76,916	14
Ontario	94,018	766,751	12
Quebec	58,425	479,355	12
New Brunswick	4,503	44,041	10
Nova Scotia	5,397	48,298	11
Prince Edward Island	1,264	8,135	16
Newfoundland	1,318	30,998	4
Northwest Territories	240	-	-
Yukon	475	-	-
Total	243,545	1,937,163	13%

Source: National Council of Welfare: *Child Care A Better Alternative*, December, 1988

Government Support for Child Care 1986-87 Fiscal Year

Federal	Government Spending	Percentage of Total
Canada Assistance Plan	\$136,000,000	20%
Training Subsidies	51,000,000	7
Care on Indian Reserves	6,000,000	1
Child Care Expense Deduction	<u>170,000,000</u>	<u>25</u>
Subtotal	363,000,000	53%
<u>Provincial & Territorial</u>		
Canada Assistance Plan	\$136,000,000	20%
Other Day Care Subsidies	113,000,000	17
Child Care Expense Deduction	<u>70,000,000</u>	<u>10</u>
Subtotal	319,000,000	47
Total	\$ 682,000,000	100%

The release of the Report of the Social Assistance Review Committee, if implemented, will undoubtedly have an impact on the funding and delivery of child care services in Ontario. Below we have reprinted a summary of the Report of the Committee as an introduction to this important review of social services in Ontario.



In July, 1986, the Ontario Government established the Social Assistance Review Committee (SARC), an independent committee charged with undertaking a public review of the province's social assistance system. This committee's mandate has been to examine and answer four questions:

- 1) What should be the guiding principles and objectives of social assistance and related programs?
- 2) To what extent is the present system meeting those objectives?
- 3) What overall strategies for change should the province adopt?
- 4) What parameters should the province accept as it moves to change its legislation?

In addressing these questions, the committee concluded that one fundamental objective should guide reforms both within and outside social assistance: "All people in Ontario are entitled to an equal assurance of life opportunities in a society that is based on fairness, shared responsibility, and personal dignity for all. The objective for social assistance, therefore, must be to ensure that individuals are able to make the transition from dependence to autonomy, and from exclusion on the margins of society to integration within the mainstream of community life."

Guiding Principles

Ten operating principles are proposed to guide the new social assistance system.

Eligibility - all members of the community have a presumptive right to social assistance, based on need.

Adequacy - all residents of Ontario who are in need must receive a fair and equitable level of social assistance, adequate to meet their basic needs for shelter, food, clothing, and personal and health care.

Accessibility - social assistance must be readily available to all those in need within the community.

Personal Development - social assistance must provide a broad range of opportunities to promote personal growth and integration into the community.

Personal responsibility - the social assistance system must enable individuals to assume responsibility for themselves and must ensure individual choice, self-determination, and participation in community life.

Individual rights - the social assistance system must respect the rights of individuals as guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and other laws. It must guarantee a clear and impartial decision-making process, including the right to due process, access to information, and the protection of privacy.

Respect for family life - the social assistance system must support and strengthen the integrity of family life while remaining sensitive to the needs of the individual family members who may be at risk.

Respect for diversity - social assistance must respect the diversity of cultures and religions in Ontario, and must recognize the unique identity of Native communities.

Accountability of the System - the administration of social assistance must be efficient, open, and publicly accountable.

Shared responsibility - The effectiveness of social assistance

depends upon the the joint action and effective cooperation of the community at large.

During its work, the committee found that the social assistance system, despite its size, is among the least understood of all social programs. The public's perceptions are at odds with the reality of social assistance in the 1980's. The report describes four common misconceptions:

Common Misconceptions

"Most people who get welfare are adult men who could work if they had to."

Employable but unemployed working-age adults represent fewer than 14% of all beneficiaries of social assistance. People with disabilities and sole-support families are by far the largest groups of recipients. The method used to compile social assistance statistics also masks one startling fact: 37% of all beneficiaries of social assistance - 205,000 people - are children under 18.

"Most poor people are on welfare."

The majority of Ontario's poor people receive little or no income from social assistance. A substantial proportion of poor people receive most of their income from employment.

"All welfare recipients live in publicly subsidized housing."

Only about 8% of all beneficiaries of social assistance live in accommodation where the rent is geared to income. The vast majority must compete in the private market to find accommodation that is adequate, available, and affordable.

"Once they start to collect benefits, most people never leave the welfare rolls".

Social assistance recipients leave the system more frequently and more quickly than most people realize.

Employable recipients remain dependent upon assistance for an average of seven months: 40% leave the system after three months. Single parents average between three and four years on assistance, and the average stay for recipients with disabilities is only slightly more than five years. The statistics indicate quite clearly that for the majority of recipients, social assistance meets a temporary need often created by a life crisis.

Stages of Reform

The SARC report recommends a number of major long term reforms to the social assistance system, in addition to a number of short term changes. Five distinct stages of reform are proposed.

Stage 1: The first year of reform

In the first stage, the focus is on immediate changes that signal major moves in the area of adequacy, incentives to work, and the removal of complexity.

Stage 2: Drafting of New Legislation

The second stage is centred on changes that are urgent, but require either planning and design work, prior consultation with other governments and agencies and with the public, or new legislation.

Stage 3: Implementation of New Legislation

Once new social assistance legislation has been passed, the process of implementation can begin. In this stage, there will be further moves toward benefits adequacy, and the delivery of many special needs items will be transferred to the ministries traditionally responsible for their delivery in the mainstream community.

Stage 4: Income supplementation and benefit adequacy

At this stage, the focus is primarily on the implementation of an income supplementation program broadly available to all working poor persons.

Stage 5: New Income Security

Programs

At this stage, the last elements of income security reform - the Children's Benefit and the Disability Income Program - will be implemented and harmonized with the other elements of the overall income securities system.

In considering these reforms, the committee reminds us that any analysis of the impact of new expenditures in social assistance must begin with the recognition that a large amount of money is now being spent on a system that few people think works well. It is preferable to spend the money required to create a system that will work well, argues the committee, rather than continuing to spend large sums on one that does not.

From a prevention perspective, many proponents of the SARC recommendations have argued that because we recognize the negative effects of child poverty, the implementation of the SARC recommendations is an essential and logical step to eradicate this condition.

Clearly, many of Ontario's families are living in intolerable conditions. There is compelling need to link the present and future conditions of these families to real opportunities - including building in systemic supports that provide planning and coaching to take advantage of these opportunities. As an example, opportunity planning will be a primary function. A skilled staff person and the recipient will develop a plan that identifies strategies to enable the recipient to leave social assistance or to live more independently in the community. It will require assessing the individual's skills, aptitudes, and aspirations and linking the recipient to appropriate services, programs and support. This form of assistance must become a required part of the restructured system. A number of successful programs, both in Ontario and in other jurisdictions, have included such an individualized planning component.

The SARC report has recognized

and articulated the urgent need for our helping systems to provide tools, support and motivation for those caught in the poverty end of the welfare and 'workfare' (i.e. working for your welfare) cycle.

It will be important to eliminate the preoccupations with "blame the victim" attitudes. The support and creation of specific public expectations regarding the implementation of these recommendations is also essential. Governmental response to the first phase of the implementation recommendations, those addressing many of the most glaring funding, equity, frugal comfort, and "market basket" recommendations will be a signal of our provincial willingness to tackle these pervasive and long standing problems.

It has been suggested that the SARC report speaks for people who do not cry out politically. Currently, funded agencies have quick and strong lobbying mechanisms. Their support in raising the profile of this issue, and the full funding of these proposed changes, are essential in raising the SARC recommendations high on the public agenda. In Ontario, the long-term social costs of a piecemeal approach to these changes are profound. Like other prevention concerns, there is a need for urgency about these long-standing, pervasive inequalities.

Full copies of *Transitions - Report of the Social Assistance Review Committee*, are available from: Publications Ontario, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ont. M7A 1N8

Reprinted from the *Ontario Prevention Clearing House Newsletter*



**DAY CARE --
A SHARED EXPERIENCE**

Produced by Petra Valier,
Directed by Geoff Bowie

This video, produced by the Ottawa Federation of Parents' Day Cares and narrated by Penny Bertrand, is an enlightening exploration of community-based Parent-Staff co-op day care centres. Useful insights by Jamie Kass of Centretown Day Care and delightful day care footage add to the merits of this production.

"A Shared Experience" is directed toward a diverse audience which may include day care workers, non-co-op day care centres, day care parents, ECE students and resource groups, just to name a few. The video offers information and encouragement regarding parent-staff day care co-ops.

Parent-staff co-ops began in the early 1970's, run by parents

in church and community centre basements and are presently licensed under the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Day Nurseries Act. But because of the Day Nursery Act's minimum standards, the co-op relies on committed people to make the system work.

The video makes the point that because the workers at the co-op are unionized, they are more committed to and more able to give high quality child care; they earn better wages and therefore, the co-op's staff turnover is lower. This low turnover leads to a more mature staff, recognition as professionals, better commitment to maintaining high standards and better care for the children.

The co-op is presented in the video as a community-based extended family in which a board of directors, consisting of parents and day care staff meets monthly to make decisions regarding hiring, fundraising, programming, etc. The co-op believes that parents

and workers should have input into the running, philosophies and policies of the centre.

"A Shared Experience" shows how day care workers, parents and children benefit from the co-op system of child care. Because of the extended family atmosphere and lively enriched program offered by the co-op system, many parents believe that the parent-child bond is reinforced by this type of system, not relinquished as is sometimes believed about child care.

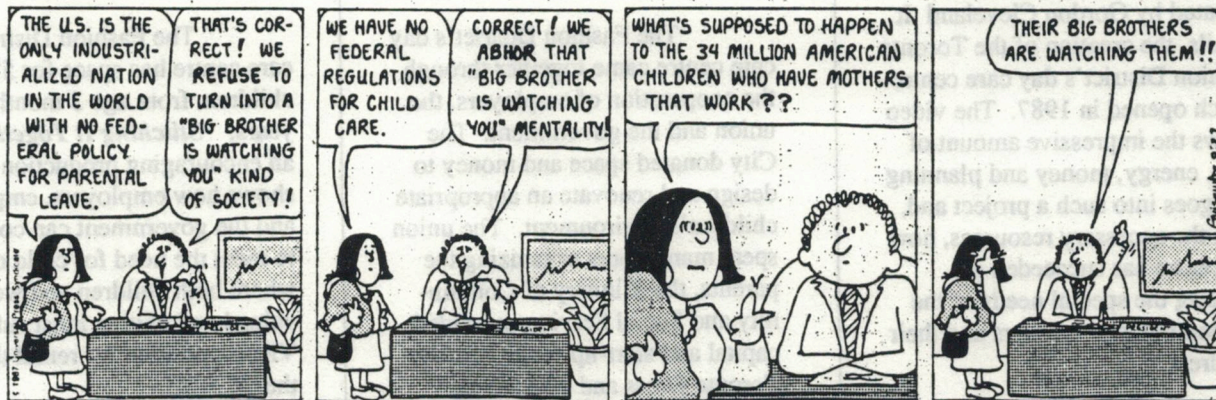
This production is an insightful, encouraging one that presents a system of quality child care from which everyone involved in child care can learn. It is a system that works for all involved.

For more information contact Dave Hagerman at Glebe Community Coop Day Care, 692 Lyon St., Ottawa, Ont., K1S 3E9 (613) 233-9268

Michele Glassford

cathy®

by **Cathy Guisewite**





STITCHING IT TOGETHER:
A Day Care Centre for Toronto's Fashion District

Produced by Action Video,
 Directed by Susan Colley

"Stitching It Together" is an Action Video Production, directed by Sue Colley and narrated by Gordon Cleveland. It details the creation of the Toronto Fashion District's day care centre which opened in 1987. The video shows the impressive amount of time, energy, money and planning that goes into such a project and, with the necessary resources, how the centre has succeeded in meeting the special needs of the fashion industry workers and their children.

In 1977 the City of

Toronto's Planning and Development Department implemented a needs survey of the area which determined that for 15,000 employees in the fashion industry, child care was a high priority. Since a large majority of garment workers are immigrant women, specialized child care became imperative for employers as well as employees. And since most of these workers earn very little, the cost of child care also became a major concern.

The Fashion District's day care centre came together through the cooperation of employers, the union and the government. The City donated space and money to design and renovate an appropriate children's environment. The union spent many hours organizing the parents, the Ministry of Community and Social Services provided capital and start-up funds, and the Toronto Dress and Sportswear Manufacturers' Guild agreed to provide additional subsidies if

government subsidies were insufficient.

The operation of the centre is handled by George Brown College which has excellent resources to run a good day care centre and has experience at integrating the special cultural concerns of the parents. Many workers are bilingual and can therefore offer a bilingual program and communicate effectively with parents.

The Fashion District day care centre has space for 52 children, from age 3 months to 5 years. *"Stitching It Together"* is an encouraging production which shows how employers, employees and the government can cooperate to meet the need for child care where both children and work are valued and neither must suffer. Video available for rental through the OCBCC.

Michelle Glassford

**BONNE NOUVELLE
POUR LES
FRANCOPHONES!**

Lors du récent congrès de "l'O.C.B.C.C." en novembre dernier, la communauté francophone voyait naître son "p'tit dernier"... le "Réseau Ontarien des Services de Garde Francophones"!

Ce réseau qui était "en projet" depuis novembre 1987, est "officiellement créé" (conseil d'Administration, constitution, et tout!) depuis le 6 novembre 1988.

Les objectifs principaux du Réseau seront:

- 1) favoriser la communication et la collaboration entre les services de garde;
- 2) appuyer et encourager le développement de nouveaux services de garde francophones;
- 3) identifier et faire connaître les besoins *spécifiques* des francophones, en ce qui a trait aux services de garde, auprès des différents palliers de gouvernement.

Le Réseau, nous l'espérons, sera la "voix commune", le "moyen d'action", de tous celles et ceux, qui oeuvrent de près ou de loin, à la cause des services de garde en français! Soyons-en fier(e)s!

Louise Chartier, présidente.

More new child care programs, funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, have come to our attention:

*The More Than Just Babysitting Child Care Centre in Prescott has received \$50,000 to construct an addition to the existing Centre. This will provide more activity space for the Centre to increase its capacity from 24 to 32 children.

*Ganaraska Child Care Centre in Port Hope has received \$19,200 to create 10 more spaces for infants up to 10 months of age. The Centre is located in Port Hope High School and offers child care to children of students, staff and faculty at the school, in addition to families in Port Hope and surrounding communities.

*\$320,000 has been provided for a day care centre in a new Boys' and Girls' Club facility in Brantford. The day care centre is expected to accommodate 32 pre-school children and 10 toddlers.

*\$600,000 has been funded for the construction of a child care centre in the new YMCA in Fort Erie. It is expected that the Centre will accommodate 57 children, 10 infants, 15 toddlers and 32 pre-school children.

*\$250,000 will go to the Glengarry Interagency Group Incorporated in Alexandria to assist in the relocation of the agency's child care centre to the former Harmony Glen School for developmentally handicapped children.

*\$33,378 funding will provide a half-day child care program for pre-school children at Pauline Johnson Collegiate in Brantford.

*\$40,000 will go to start up a new child care centre for pre-schoolers in Midland. It will be operated by the YMCA to offer care to 24 pre-school aged children.

*\$235,000 has been approved for the expansion of Sonlight Day Care Centre in Barrie which is operated by the Salvation Army Barrie Citadel. Once the project is completed, in the spring of 1989, the Centre will offer care for an additional eight pre-school children and will introduce a new service for toddlers.



Oxford County

Child care advocates in Woodstock have started a local coalition. They have already held one meeting and are planning another in January. One of the problems they are discussing, of course, is the fact that Oxford County decided not to give them the full amount of the direct operating grant. Instead, the grant was used to reduce the transitional grant program and keep parent fees down.

Thunder Bay

Two elections within eight days does stretch us...nonetheless day care advocates across Northwestern Ontario worked vigorously to keep day care on both the federal and municipal political agenda.

As well as attending municipal all-candidates meetings, Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care surveyed the candidates and will follow up with meetings with newly elected council members. Advocates and Early Childhood Education students also attended federal all-candidates meetings in both urban ridings, asked day care questions, distributed literature, and took every opportunity to make the public more aware of day care issues, particularly Bill C-144's serious flaws. Regional advocates were busy with similar activities.

Presently, we are contacting our four Northwestern Ontario M.P.s (three new liberal members and one NDP incumbent) to lay the groundwork for the ongoing child care struggle at the federal

level.

The problem of accessibility has reached new dimensions with some 800-1000 children on waiting lists in Thunder Bay (600 on the municipal list alone) and many regional centres are experiencing long waiting lists as well.

On the bright side, plans for the first ever day care centre in Atikokan are progressing well with a target date of early 1989 for opening.

Northwestern Regional Day Care Committee and Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care.

Ottawa

On November 15, 40 members of the *Ottawa Carleton Daycare Association* met with the Director of Children's Services for the regional government and the four area managers responsible for daycare. Revised budget guidelines developed by OCDCA were presented and a number of areas of concern were identified and discussed. These areas included the DOG and its effect on the operational budget, the results of the regional daycare workers job evaluation and their DOG, the budget process and the length of time it takes to get budgets approved and problems with the subsidy system (ie: discharge without notice, backdating, parents' holidays).

Recently the Ottawa daycare community had to mount a sudden lobby to get our requested in-

creases for our pensions approved. The Region is holding everyone at a 4.3% increase however, we were able to elicit support from the politicians so we could still get our 5% pensions.

The *Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association* has recently released its quality care paper and is now working on a review of the Day Nursery Act. It is also developing a salary scale for daycare workers. For *OCDCA* information, please call : (613) 236-6744.

London

The *London Coalition for Better Daycare* is pleased to announce that Leslie Peat will be its representative for the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. She has been elected to the Ontario Coalition's executive as well. Brenda Rooms-Leinweber will continue to co-ordinate local coalition activities. Representatives of the London Coalition met with some people from Woodstock Ontario and Cathy Austin from Woodstock is ready to start a Woodstock Coalition.

Windsor

The school boards here have recently introduced junior kindergarten programs for the first time and this has been a boon to many families. Fortunately for families here, we're not feeling the subsidy freeze so badly as it's affecting some other areas.

Greetings for a productive and happy new year to everyone.

Windsor District Coalition for Better Child Care

Waterloo

Daycare Shuffle Bus Protest

This fall 50 protesters from the Waterloo region participated in an action called the Daycare Shuffle Bus to protest the subsidy waiting list and the Federal government daycare strategy.

The protesters were members of Mothers and Others Making Change (MOMC is a local group of welfare mothers trying to get out of the system), people from the local YWCA and members of the Waterloo Region Daycare Coalition. The action was called a shuffle because of the way people are shuffled from one level of government to another.

The group visited the headquarters of the Regional government where they presented the head of the Health and Social Services committee with a "Hope Pin". The hope pin was a giant green paper mache diaper pin. It was presented to them in thanks for increasing the number of subsidy spaces in the region. Unfortunately, those spaces weren't all given to the region.

The provincial government only increased the number of spaces by 88 rather than the 200 spaces that are needed and were asked for. In Waterloo region there is a daycare subsidy priority list and the province's cutting of the subsidy spaces meant that any



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new person wanting to upgrade themselves by going back to school was not eligible.

The bus then went through downtown Kitchener/Waterloo to the local Federal MP's office, Walter MacLean. The protesters attempted to present a petition against the Federal Child Care Strategy, but it did not appear that the petition was accepted either by himself or his staff. Next the protesters shuffled off to the office of Mr. John Sweeney who is the Minister of Community and Social Services and provincial MPP for the area. One of his staff accepted the provincial petition and Mr. Sweeney did meet with them at a later date, however, this meeting was not successful in increasing the number of subsidy spaces.

The Waterloo Region Daycare Coalition will continue to put pressure on all levels of government in order to continue to improve the daycare situation in the area.

NOTE: The *Waterloo Region Daycare Coalition* will be celebrating its 1st Birthday on January 25, 1989. They will be having a party to celebrate and a guest speaker from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.

Peterborough

Child care advocates in Peterborough are interested in talking to other people who would like to form a local daycare association. If you are interested, please call Joan Sangster at home 705-743-8390.

Even The cat
just uses
me.....



Toronto

The City of Toronto Grant

Discussion and debate about the City Grant continued throughout the year. Remarkably, the issues are not yet completely settled! However, through concerted lobbying and deputations we have definitely made progress!

At the August 31st City Executive meeting, the Executive agreed to recommend to City Council that money be allocated to ensure that the average salary of programme staff in non-profit Toronto centres will continue to be at par with the entry level of Metro daycare workers. This was a significant accomplishment, given that at the beginning of the summer, there were real concerns that the grant would disappear.

As well, there will be further discussion of other support the City may undertake. For example, there was a discussion that, given the emergency situation facing the daycare community, funds could be used to provide an emergency support for centres in serious difficulty. As we get more information about these initiatives, we'll keep you informed!

*Daycare Coalition
of Metro Toronto*

Metro Toronto

Central to the *Metro Toronto Coalition* plans for the New Year is ongoing campaigning at the Metro level around the provincial subsidy freeze. The Metro Toronto Coalition has written to all members of the new Metro Council outlining areas of concern around daycare and asking for their support. We are arranging meetings with all first time Metro Councillors to acquaint them with the issues. These meetings will be attended by parents and daycare workers from the Councillor's respective ridings to ensure that the impact of the subsidy freeze on specific families and centres is not overlooked.

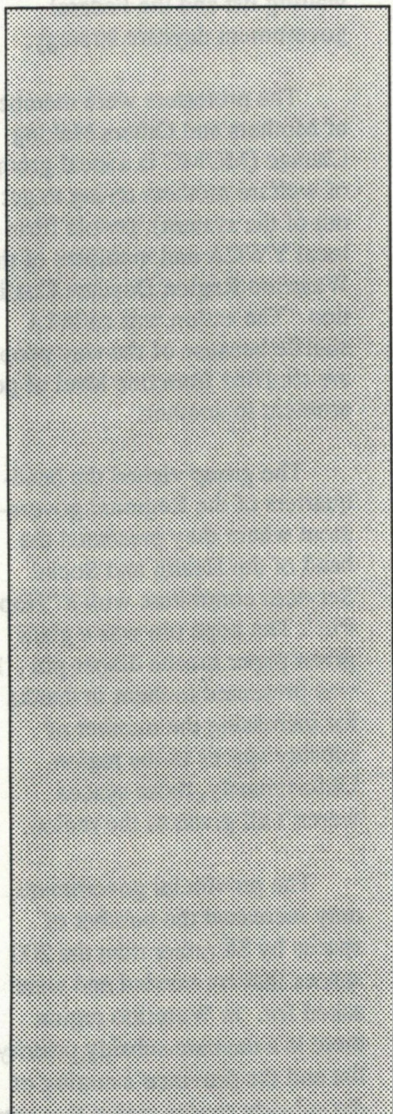
This education process is particularly crucial given Metro's role in opposing the Province's subsidy ceiling. The past Metro Council voted to contribute substantial non-cost-shared dollars to maintain subsidy places and per diem levels that the Province had been unwilling to fund. It is essential that the new Council members maintain this support.

Internally, the Coalition is drawing up new bylaws that will formalize our structure. Our goal is to allow for solid representation within the Coalition by Borough/City Coalitions of parents, child-care workers, trade unions, anti-poverty groups, women's organizations, immigrant centres, Children's Aid and other key organizations concerned with childcare.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February 15, 7:00 p.m. at Centro Clinton Daycare.

Our focus will be the issue of per diems. The underfunding of per diems by the Province threatens to create a major crisis for daycare centres across Metro in 1989. *Everyone* is welcome to come and discuss this and other issues crucial to the daycare community. We promise lots of good food and interesting company!

For further information about the Annual General Meeting and Steering Committee meetings, call the Metro Coalition office at 538-6313:



This column is dedicated to our members and readers. If you have an opinion about a topic of current concern or of general interest to the child care community, please contact us. We would be pleased to publish it.

**THE MEECH LAKE ACCORD
DOES IT THREATEN A NATIONAL DAY CARE PROGRAM ?
NO IT DOESN'T!**

Dave Hagerman

Dave Hagerman is a council member of the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care. He has also been the president of the Ottawa Carleton Day Care Association, and currently is employed as the Administrative Co-ordinator of the Glebe Parents Day Care in Ottawa. He has studied Canadian politics at the University of New Brunswick and at the University of Waterloo.

It has been argued that the failure of the Federal Child Care Strategy can be blamed on the Meech Lake Accord. The National Action Committee on the Status of women, the Ontario Coalition For Better Child Care and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, among others, have all made the case that the Accord's section on Federal-Provincial spending has effectively hamstrung the Federal government in future attempts to set national standards in new federal-provincial shared cost programs. Unfortunately, the critics have allowed their dislike of conservative politics to influence their ability to

undertake an objective analysis of the Accord. They state that the reliance on unanimity among the provinces, and the provision that allows the provinces to opt out of new shared cost programs in exclusive provincial jurisdiction, will "balkanize" public services with the lowest possible standards being the rule rather than the exception.

This position simply cannot be supported by reading the Accord, by properly analyzing the new Federal Child Care Act, or by examining the historical evidence. Furthermore, the critics have failed to realize the real merits of the Accord. It, in fact, strengthens the democratic process in Canada and institutes a consensus making process that will ensure a national commitment to new social and economic programs. The Accord does this by establishing a political dynamic that will prevent regional alienation caused by unwanted programs that have been imposed on the provinces by a central authority.

Firstly, the Accord states that provinces can only receive compensation upon opting out when they establish similar programs that meet national objectives. Critics of the Accord suggest that the lack of strong national objectives in the new day care policy proves their case. The child care policy does not support the Accord's critics, it simply demonstrates that conservative forces are in control of developing Canadian social policy at this point in the country's history.

Faced with millions of children who have been denied adequate child care, the government has proposed a policy which denies the need for an expanded public presence. Instead, the policy lays the foundation for commercial interests to dominate in any new system that develops. The policy also promotes the notion that children are best cared for by underpaid and unlicensed babysitters in

their own homes. This is the very definition of conservative politics; pro business in economic terms and pro man at work and women in the home as it relates to family policy. This should not be surprising, for after all, the policy was developed by Conservative politicians and the national objectives reflect that philosophy - but it does not provide grounds to oppose the Meech Lake Accord. It also does not provide proof that Federal and Provincial governments under different political parties are prevented from establishing different objectives. History has demonstrated that other political parties have been able to establish effective national standards in new programs.

Very few Canadians, beyond those who actually study Canadian politics, realize that our current social safety net was developed within a constitutional framework that allowed provinces to "opt out". Medicare, the Canada Pension Plan and the Canadian Assistance Plan were all developed within a constitutional convention that permitted provinces to develop their own programs. In fact, the province of Quebec did opt out of the Canada Pension Plan. These programs are examples of how effective national standards were developed within a structure similar to the one proposed in the Meech Lake Accord. The difference between the objectives established in the 1960's and those of the 1980's is the fact that the Liberals were the government then, while the Conservatives currently hold the reigns of power. Federal objectives simply reflect the political philosophy of the Federal party in power.

One should look at the Accord in a broader context; a context that deals with the real issue at hand. Does the Accord strengthen the democratic process in Canada or does it not? Upon reflection, one must conclude that the Accord strengthens this process and protects individuals and regions from being subjected to

arbitrary measures from a central authority. The Accord's reliance on unanimity simply ensures that all regions in the country support new proposals and have been involved in their development. This is a positive notion and prevents regional alienation caused by a perceived unresponsive central authority.

Many years ago political philosophers such as John Locke and Charles de Montesquieu wrote of how best to construct a democratic political system. Montesquieu promoted the concept of the "separation of powers" which was supported by the British thinker, Locke. The American, James Madison, also accepted this concept. In the Federalist papers, Madison wrote:

"no political truth is certainly of greater intrinsic value, or is stamped with the authority of more enlightened patrons of Liberty than that.... the accumulation of all powers legislative, executive, judiciary in the same hands..... may just be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

The doctrine of the "Separation of Powers" maintains that political power should be divided among various democratic institutions. This separation would ensure that one segment of the society, due to its economic or numerical advantage, would not dominate the political process and ignore the rights of others. Montesquieu said the way to prevent the abuse of power is to check power with power. The constitution would then define the relationship between these institutions and provide the checks and balances which were seen as a prerequisite to democracy.

The "Meech Lake Accord" is a Canadian method of separating power. It ensures that all power is not concentrated in the same hands. Without the Accord the Federal government would become the

omnipresent and sole political force in the country. Through the "power of the purse" the Federal government (as has happened in the United States) would make the provinces simply administrators of programs developed in Ottawa. As the Federal government already appoints the Senate and Supreme Court the centralizing of authority in Canada would be complete. Virtually all legislative, executive and judicial power would originate from the same source, the Federal government.

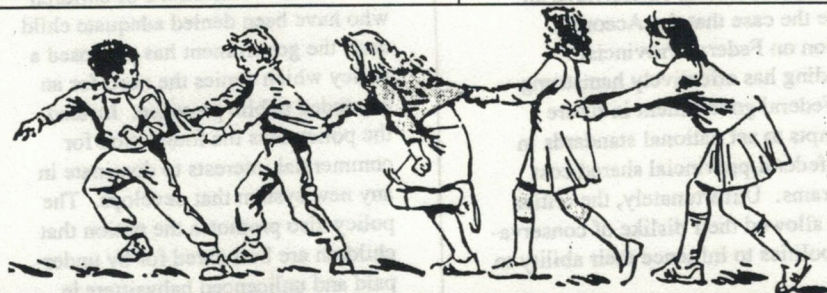
Once provinces are unable to act independently in their area of responsibility, there will be no effective legislative or executive checks or balances in Canada. We would be subject to the power of the Cabinet and ultimately, one man or woman, the Prime Minister. The "Meech Lake Accord" prevents this concentration of power. It does this by instituting a decision making process based on consultation and co-operation. This is the true spirit through which a national consensus can be built.

The Accord also preserves the role of the provinces as the testing ground for new approaches to pressing social issues. It ensures that provincial governments and provincial cultures remain important and legitimate political entities. History has demonstrated that some of our most cherished human services have been the products of these regional cultures. In the forties, the people of Saskatchewan elected a CCF government that then introduced the first medicare system. Health care is not

the only example; public auto insurance, and the placing of natural resources and utilities under provincial crown corporations are other examples of the role provincial governments have played in advancing new ways to provide services to Canadians. Provincial political cultures have thus provided a political base for new experiments in social, cultural and economic policy.

This is not to say that the provinces are the source of all that is good and pure and the Federal government is always the bad guy. Provinces, like the federal government, have spotted history in this regard. It is important to note, however, that provinces from time to time have been the source of innovation and the "Meech Lake Accord" ensures that this role can continue.

Canadians, should not feel threatened by the Meech Lake Accord. It may be the constitutional mechanism that protects our social safety net from the exercise of arbitrary power from a central authority. The problems that have developed with the child care policy are not related to any of the provisions of the Meech Lake Accord. The lack of leadership in this regard is the result of the election of a Conservative government that has responded to the more conservative elements of its power base. Liberal and NDP governments would institute different policies. The "Meech Lake Accord" ensures at the very least some programs will not be arbitrarily imposed, but will be the result of co-operation among the many interests that make up the Canadian Mosaic.



CONFERENCE

"I left the conference having enjoyed seeing old friends, meeting new people, learning new information, but frustrated that there had been little effort to collectively develop strategies for the future. I would have expected the Coalition to have taken a leadership role but I felt I've been to a party and never met the hostess."

"I felt that there needed to be a theme running more clearly throughout the conference - with more strategy discussions. Even though the coalition is not membership based, I think the direction and strategy for the upcoming year(s) should be a topic for discussion. For example, where are we at in the discussion of daycare under the Ministry of Education - a partisan panel did little to allow childcare activists to come

together and truly debate the issue. Most people would not feel that the Tories could adequately address concerns of activists that are concerned about child care under the Ministry of Education - more discussion necessary.

"Generally, the conference was interesting, lots of information, but it was unfocused. The position of the Coalition for addressing Child care in Ontario was never focused upon. What is our agenda?"

"This weekend was extremely educational. I have made many contacts with many interesting people. I wish everyone in my two centres could have come. I left you with many, many new thoughts to consider, and a renewed feeling that yes, I or we can make a difference in child care in our area in Ontario, in Canada.

BEST CONFERENCE EVER!

During the chilly and wet weekend of November 5/6th, 1988, the Toronto, Downtown Holiday Inn, was home to the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care 6th Annual Conference, **Childcare: Visions of Change - Looking Beyond Our Borders!**

Over 450 delegates attended the conference from around the province, Quebec and from as far away as Halifax and the Northwest Territories. There was anticipation and excitement in the air as the conference got underway. Upon reviewing the conference evaluations, it is clear that the conference was generally a positive experience for delegates and one that provided an excellent forum for networking and educational opportunities.

The Conference kicked off on Friday night with a Wine & Cheese Reception and a screening

of the film "Worth Every Minute", a tribute to the late Pat Schultz. Our international guests and over 150 conference delegates enjoyed this opportunity to socialize and we were very happy to welcome the Danish Consul, Mr. Jorgen Jensen who joined us for the evening.

On Saturday morning delegates gathered together to listen and learn about childcare systems in Italy, Denmark, U.S.A., U.K. and the European Economic Community. Our international guests each made a presentation outlining their respective childcare systems, philosophies and goals.

There was a question and answer period after the presentations. All the presentations were very interesting and illuminating and have given us all much food for thought with respect to the kind of childcare system we want to see in Canada. (Proceedings will be available, upon request)

The morning's activities culminated in a rally at Queen's Park and a march to Federal Tory Headquarters. The theme of the march was "Lift The Ceilings - Subsidies Now! Tell The Tories - No To Bill C-144". Over 500 braved torrential rain and joined the march. However, the rain did not dampen their spirits and at Queen's Park a lively, exhilarated, albeit wet, crowd listened to speeches from Toronto Mayorality candidate, Art Eggleton, Metro Coalition chairperson, Sue Hunter and Coalition President, Laurel Rothman. At Tory Headquarters, NAC President, Lynne Kaye, and Judy Rebick from NAC, Women Vote Day spoke against the Tory Child Care Bill.

The afternoon session began with 16 informational workshops which covered such topics as pay equity, racism, sexism and the implication of free trade on childcare. As in previous years the workshops were very popular and well attended.

The day closed with a debate between Richard Johnson, NDP, MPP, Scarborough West and Don Cousens, P.C. MPP, Markham, on whether child care should be part of social services or education. Richard Johnson argued very strongly in favour of education. Richard supported his arguments

by outlining how our present education system would have to be modified in order to integrate child care, child care workers and parents into the system. Don Cousens supported the social service model as it presently exists. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to thoroughly discuss the issues raised.

Almost 300 delegates, spouses and friends came out on Saturday night to dine and dance the night away. Kudos to all who attended after such a busy day!

Sunday morning came around all too soon! The Coalition Council had a business meeting in the morning. Over 50 Council members were in attendance.

On Sunday morning approximately 50 francophone delegates met and the new Réseau ontarien des services de garde francophones (Ontario Network of Francophone Child Care Services) was created. A Board of Directors was elected and a Constitution adopted. The Réseau will be devoting its energies to the specific needs of francophone daycare centres. We

congratulate the Réseau on its formation and we look forward to working with them in the future.

The Sunday afternoon session began with another set of informational workshops. Topics covered included: Family Home Day Care, Accreditation, Child Care in Quebec and Art in the Day. Again, the workshops were very well attended and highly rated in the evaluations.

The closing plenary was presented by Ada Schermann of the Institute for Child Study. The weekend concluded with final lobby preparations.

On Monday morning over 300 advocates and students converged on Queen's Park to attend the annual lobby. People were re-energized after the weekend and posed many tough questions for the politicians. (See lobby report for further details.)

All in all we think the conference was the best ever and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Eileen Condon



LOBBY 1988

As always, one of the highlights of this year's "Visions of Change" conference was the Queen's Park lobby, held on Monday November 7, 1988. This year's lobby was as exciting and as emotional as any in the past and received good media coverage. Many participants of the conference demanded answers from M.P.P.s of all three parties.

The Progressive Conservative Caucus was represented by Margaret Marland of Mississauga South riding and Norman Sterling of Carleton riding. Questions posed to the Progressive Conservatives focused on the "market model" of child care, for-profit child care and the proposed Bill C-144. The representative M.P.P.s stated that they believed standards of child care are more important than whether the centres are for-profit or non-profit and that the spaces provided by the private sector could not be replaced.

Members of the New Democratic Caucus, which included Bob Rae, Richard Allen and Marion Bryden, offered many answers that the lobbyists agreed with. Bob Rae stated that profit had no place in children's services, that child care is early childhood education, not free babysitting and that the public service aspect of child care must be recognized. Bob Rae and the N.D.P. support the unionization of child care workers in order to raise salaries. The N.D.P. left the lobby stressing the importance of continuous lobbying by parents.

Finally, and most importantly, of course, was the exchange between lobbyists and the Liberal Caucus. John Sweeney, the



Minister of Community and Social Services, stated that since taking office, the Liberal government has increased the child care budget from 88 million to 288 million and that since 1985, they have increased subsidized spaces from 20,000 to 115,000. When questioned about the 7500 children still on the waiting list, Mr. Sweeney explained that \$30 million extra is needed to eliminate the subsidy waiting list and that money is being used in other ways: to increase licenced spaces, subsidized spaces, wages, and to improve quality and number of staff, training programs, etc. In response to this spreading of resources, Sue Colley of the OCBC stated that the resources are simply too small, that only .75% of the provincial budget was allocated to child care.

The most emotional exchange occurred in response to the question by two mothers, "Who is the neediest?" Although the Liberal Caucus would not admit it, it was apparent that there was no answer to the "greater need" problem.

When questioned about the successes and failures of non-profit conversion programs, Mr. Sweeney explained that there have not been many conversions and as soon as there are enough non-profit spaces, the government will no longer allot subsidized spaces to commercial centres.

Even though no commitments were made, Mr. Sweeney and the Liberals left the lobby promising to look into the Oxford County misuse of direct operating grants as pointed out by child care worker Cathy Bowman.

It was made obvious at the lobby that the child care community and the government in power are still at odds over many crucial issues. And, as Bob Rae suggested, further lobbying is essential since, "government responds to pressure."

Michelle Glassford

RHETORIC ON FAMILIES

by MINDY FRIED

Throughout the United States' presidential campaign, the public was subjected to a heavy dose of rhetoric about families and family values. Some of it was touching. In this age of changing roles for men and women, who can resist a father, much less a presidential candidate, who is nurturing and expressive toward his children and, in President-elect George Bush's case, his grandchildren as well. But when you get past the glossy photos and slick ads of hugs and kisses, what is really happening with families? And what will be the social policy of the Bush administration toward families?

Throughout the Reagan administration, families have been touted as the "social safety net." This has been the rationale for major cuts in social service programs and the accompanying resistance to any comprehensive child-care or parental-leave legislation. The Reagan vision idealized the traditional family with mom at home caring for the kids and dad earning wages that would support the family. This "cornflakes family" represents only 10 percent of all American families today. Nearly 60 percent of all married women and 64 percent of all single women with children ages 3 to 5 are in the labor force. This figure increases dramatically as children grow older.

Furthermore, for some people - perhaps many - families do not

conjure up warm, snuggly feelings; for some they are the source of abuse and distress. A progressive family policy would address the needs of families for support and survival. It would include all the forms that American families are taking today: single - and two parent families, co-parenting models, gay and lesbian parenting and more.

Unfortunately, social policy has lagged far behind reality. Parents who want to take time off from paid work to stay home with their babies in the early months have no national job-protection clause or guarantee of wages during their time off. The United States and South Africa share the dubious distinction of being among the few industrialized nations that do not have a national maternity-leave policy.

Maternity or parental leave (time off for both parents) is on the personal agenda for many new parents, but it was not high on the social-policy agenda for the Reagan administration. The Family and Medical Leave Act, a bill that would have begun to address the issue on a national level, died in Congress. What will the Bush administration say when this bill resurfaces during the next congressional session?

Not surprisingly, child care emerged in the presidential campaign as a vehicle to woo the women's vote. The emphasis of the Bush child-care proposal is a tax break for low-income parents, including a \$1,000 refund for those earning under \$10,000 who owe no taxes. For those earning more, the refund would be increasingly less.

Unfortunately, this proposal does not address the broader needs of all working parents. The rationale behind the Bush proposal is that tax measures allow for parental choice. But tax dollars in hand paid to a low-income parent at the end of the year do not pay for the child-care bills during the year. Furthermore, the amount of the tax deduction would not begin to dent the high costs of child-care services, averaging \$3,000 per year for preschool children, and rising up to as high as \$10,000 for infants. Even more perplexing is that Bush, at other times, has stated there will be a freeze on domestic spending.

This year, a coalition of child-care advocates, parents, church organizations, labour and community groups came together to press for passage of the Act for Better Child Care. The bill provides subsidies for working parents as well as funding for wages for child-care workers, two-thirds of whom earn poverty wages, contributing to a 40 percent turnover rate. It also addresses the need for quality standards for care, a crucial issue for parents who leave their children in child-care programs for eight or more hours a day. What will the Bush administration say when this bill resurfaces in the next congressional session?

There are many other "family policy" issues, such as universal health care, alternative or flexible work schedules, guaranteed income, affirmative action and care-givers leave, which would allow time off for caring for a sick child or elderly parent. In Europe, many of these policies exist or are

IN BRIEF

being discussed. Canada has a national maternity-leave policy as well as universal health care. Perhaps after eight years of running in place against a backward tide, Americans have become more vulnerable to lowering expectations. Perhaps we are less likely to demand or even ask for policies that would make our work and family lives more livable.

It is time to push presidential rhetoric aside. It's nice to talk about families, but it's time to do something about them. We must monitor legislation and lobby at the national level, and, at the same time, work toward progressive family policies at the state level.

Mindy Fried is co-coordinator of the Massachusetts Family Policy Working Group.



SERVICES REQUIRED BY FAMILIES TO KEEP A HANDICAPPED CHILD AT HOME

The Easter Seal Society has been funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to undertake a study to determine the support services required by families to keep a handicapped child at home and by the child to remain in the family setting. The study is to include needs both in relation to physically handicapped children and to children with sensory impairments.

NEW PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCED

For Canada's Children

The Canadian Council on Children and Youth is pleased to announce a new bulletin: "For Canada's Children", a new source of information for people interested in policy issues affecting Canadian young people. Like "Issue Updates", "For Canada's Children" offers news about specific policies, provides background information and suggests strategies for action and is published six times a year. "For Canada's Children": is available from the Canadian Council on Children and Youth, 2211 Riverside Dr., Suite 14, Ottawa, Ontario. K1H 7X5. (613) 738-0200.

"Caring Right from the Start", a new publication about the child care needs of infants published by the Canadian Council on Children and Youth, contains the proceedings from the CCCY's 1988 Presidential Consultation on Human Development in Infancy and Child Care Policy, as well as a bibliography on the infant care issue. Copies are available for \$7.50 each from the Canadian Council on Children and Youth, 2211 Riverside Drive, Suite 14, Ottawa, Ont., K1H 7X5, (613) 738-0200.



FIRST PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER CHILD INITIATIVES FUND

The first two groups to receive funding under the \$100 million Child Care Initiatives Fund (CCIF) are the National Daycare Research Network and the Canadian Child Day Care Federation. The purpose of the fund is to encourage and promote innovative projects in the fields of child care that will enhance the accessibility and quality of child care services in Canada.

The National Daycare Research Network will receive funds to conduct a study that will form a base-line description against which the development and expansion of national and local child care systems may be studied. The Canadian Child Day Care Federation will receive funding to expand their programming.

INCREASE IN DAILY RATES FOR FOSTER CARE

Minister of Community and Social Services John Sweeney has announced a 10% increase in the daily rates paid to Ontario foster parents. The largest increment will be delivered in the northern region with a 12.9% rate increase from \$15.17 per day to \$17.13. The southwest will change from \$15.07 to \$16.93, or 12.3%. The southeast daily rate will increase \$1.64 from its present \$15.45 to \$17.09 or 10.6%.

In Metro the regular rates paid to those housing foster children will go up 6.8% to \$23.69 per day. Other central region rates will rise to \$18.17 a day from \$16.89.

CHILD POVERTY

Recent Statistics Canada data (1986) show over one million Canadian children living in poverty. This is an increase of

120,000 children since 1980, even though the total number of children under 16 in Canada decreased by 224,000 in those years.

NAC MEMBERSHIP

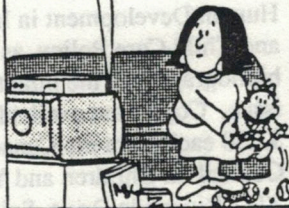
Is your organization a member of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC)?

In the past, and certainly at present, the NAC Child Care Committee has been vigorously lobbying for improved child care for Canadian children. In 1988 they have submitted briefs to the federal government and have published a critique of Bill C144. This fall, Nac recognized childcare's national importance as an election issue and included childcare as one of the 4 major issues that concern Canadian women.

NAC represents hundreds of thousands of women in over 500 member organizations. For further information please call the NAC office. (416) 922-3246.

Cathy

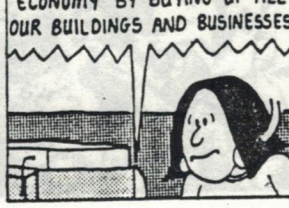
SENATE REPUBLICANS KILLED A DAY CARE SUBSIDY PLAN THIS MONTH, PREFERRING TO BACK BUSH'S PLAN TO GIVE FAMILIES A \$1,000 TAX CREDIT FOR EACH CHILD UNDER AGE 4.



THE BUSH PLAN COMES TO \$2.74 PER DAY PER CHILD. WHILE NO ONE COULD FIND DECENT DAY CARE FOR \$2.74 A DAY, HIS PLAN WOULD ALLOW EACH IMPOVERISHED FAMILY TO BUY A DECENT VCR.



NOT ONLY WOULD CHILDREN HAVE SOMETHING TO WATCH WHILE MOMMY RIPS HER HAIR OUT, BUT EACH VCR PURCHASE WOULD FURTHER BOOST THE JAPANESE ECONOMY SO THEY COULD KEEP BOOSTING OUR ECONOMY BY BUYING UP ALL OUR BUILDINGS AND BUSINESSES.



PARENTS, OF COURSE, COULD TAPE ALL SPEECHES EXPLAINING HOW WELL OFF WE ARE.

GET YOUR BOTTLE, HONEY. MOMMY HAS TO GO TO BED FOR FOUR YEARS.



CALENDAR

ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

Coalition Council Meetings
Sunday, February 19th, 1989 and
Sunday May 7th, 1989, 10:00-4:30

ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

Open House - Beat the February Blues!

Thursday, February 9, 1989, 4-7 pm.
297 St. George St., Toronto.

For further information contact the Coalition office
(416) 324-9080

DAY CARE COALITION OF METRO TORONTO

General Meeting: February 15, 1989
For more information: Debbi Littman 538-6313

THE PAY EQUITY COMMISSION

"Countdown to Implementation"
regional conferences are being held in Toronto, Sudbury, London and Ottawa between January 13 and February 17, 1989.

For more information call the Hotline: 1-800-387-8887,

LAMBTON COLLEGE CHILD-CARE CONFERENCE

Hosted by 2nd Year Students
February 25, 1989 8a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
North Building (Nurses' Residence)
Sarnia.

For further information call Janine Woehl
(519-542-7751)

WOMEN PLAN TORONTO CONFERENCE

Women Plan Toronto are in the process of organizing a conference on women's issues and municipal

politics: "Women Changing the City". Your participation is welcomed at a planning meeting on Saturday January 7, 1989 from 10:30 to 12 p.m. at the NAC Office, 344 Bloor Street West, Ste. 505, Toronto (wheelchair accessible). For more information: Barbara Crow 651-9928

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Annual General Meeting
May 12-15th, Carleton University,
Ottawa.
For further information call Anne
(416) 922-3246

CHILDREN: THE HEART OF THE MATTER

April 5-8, 1989, Winnipeg, Man
National Child Day Care Conference organized by the Canadian Child Day Care Federation.
For more information: (613) 729-5289

WORKING TOGETHER

FOR

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY



A CONFERENCE
Held On

January 14 & 15, 1989

Ryerson Polytechnical Institute
380 Victoria Street
Toronto, Ontario

COALITION PUBLICATIONS

The following Coalition publications are available from the Coalition office upon request. Please send \$2 for each publication with your order.

Brief to the Commission of Inquiry on Unemployment Insurance. "Paid Parental Leave Policies: Can Canada's Unemployment Insurance Scheme Meet The Challenge?" January 1986

Brief to Special Parliamentary Committee on Child Care, May 1986

Brief "Still Time For Change, Ontario Provincial Child Care Policy," October 1986

1986 Conference Proceedings, Still Time For Change, December, 1986

Brief to the Standing Committee on Administration of Justice: "Bill 154/86: An Act To Provide Pay Equity in the Broader Public Sector and in the Private Sector, The Pay Equity Act, 1986," May, 1987

Brief to the Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs, January 1987

Brief to the Select Committee on Health: "Development of Non-Profit Child Care in Ontario," April 1987

Brief to the Select Committee on Health: "On Statistics", April 1987

Response to Report of Special Committee on Child Care Federal Child Care Policy, June 1987

Response to Government of Ontario Policy: New Directions for Child Care, June 1987

Brief to the Government of Ontario: "The Times They Are A-Changin'", November 1987

Response to Federal Government National Strategy on Child Care: "Smoke And Mirrors? Or a New Federal Government Child Care