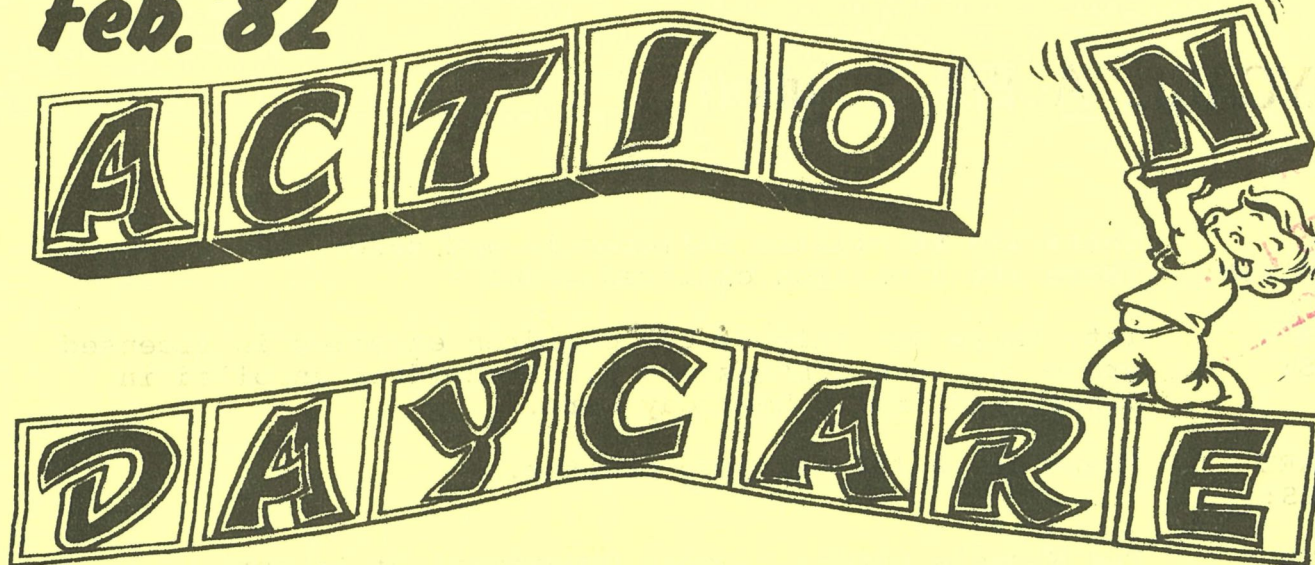


Feb. '82



NEWSLETTER

## WHERE WE'RE GOING

The following article consists of an outline of proposals for action by Action Day Care for the upcoming year, passed by those who attended the last Action Day Care meeting on January 7th. They are published here to inform members of our plans for 1982 and to invite you to join the committee of your choice, and to participate in future activities.

### Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care

This coalition (OCBDC), initiated in the fall of 1980, includes Action Day Care, the Ontario Federation of Labour, all the teachers' federations, several trade unions, various social and professional organizations, a number of women's groups and the Ontario Federation of Students. The Coalition is currently developing its organizational structure and plans for action. There now exists a steering committee composed of representatives of various organizations.

The Coalition is lobbying for universally accessible, publicly funded day care by 1990, an increase in government funds to ensure access to 15% of the child population by 1984, for a transfer to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, the implementation of a system of direct grants and a task force to explore a variety of

issues. The Coalition is planning to consolidate its links with local coalition groups across the province, to set up a speaker's bureau, produce educational literature and encourage other provincial organizations to join the coalition. It has also been proposed to organize a province-wide conference on day care issues next fall and a planning committee has been struck off to begin this process.

### Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto

Established last spring as a local chapter of the OCBDC, this group is composed of activists interested in political action around day care. After the presentation of the brief to cabinet in November the Metro Coalition organized a lobby of all MPPs in Metro on the three immediate demands of the brief (the direct grant to non-profit day care centres and agencies, the 10,000 additional subsidized spaces and the task force). Now, Metro MPPs know where we stand on day care. One of the most valuable aspects of this lobby was that we identified lots of people supportive of the issues and keen to be involved.

(con't, p.4)



# DAYCARE: A 15% Solution

## F A C T S

CHILD POPULATION:	There are 6½ million children 12 and under There are 2 million children under 6		
DAY CARE SPACES:	Yet, there are only 84,083 children enrolled in licensed group day care centres and 9,769 children enrolled in supervised family home day care.		
DAY CARE CENTRES:	There are 2,484 day care centres.		
WORKING MOTHERS:	The Women's Bureau, Canada Department of Labour estimates that there are:  610,000 children under 6 with mothers in the labour force, and 387,000 mothers in the workforce with children under 3. There are 1,630,000 women in the workforce with children between the ages of 0-15 years.		
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN LICENSED DAY CARE:	Of the 217,000 children under 2 in some kind of day care, less than 5% are in licensed day care; Of the 504,000 children age 2-6 in some kind of day care, approximately 15% are enrolled in licensed programs.		
SUBSIDIZED DAY CARE SPACES:	Approximately half of all of the licensed day care spaces in Canada are subsidized spaces - 47,000. Over 80% of subsidized spaces are allocated to single parents.		
FEES:	Fees range between \$7 and \$20 per day; \$2,500 per annum was the typical annual cost in 1980.		
WAGES:	Salaries of day care teachers are extremely low right across the country. For example, average wages in Ontario were \$9,000 in 1980, in B.C. the average was \$10,800, in Quebec, \$9,100, and in Alberta \$12,000.		
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES:	In 1979-80, the federal government spent \$40 million on day care subsidies under the provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan. It also spent (in lost revenue) \$55 million in child care tax allowances.		
TYPES OF DAY CARE:	Public:	171 centres	6,215 spaces
	Commercial:	1,306 "	41,549 "
	Parent Co-op:	107 "	3,200 "
	Community Board:	900 "	33,119 "
LATCH-KEY CHILDREN:	It is estimated that 6% of the children whose mothers are in the workforce are left unattended in the home. Only 1% of children between 6 and 16 are enrolled in licensed day care.		
PARTICIPATION RATE OF WOMEN:	44.5% of Canadian mothers are in the workforce. There has been a growth of entry of married women into the workforce over the last 2 decades - 152.8%		



# Sole Support Mothers Need Support

This fall Action Day Care joined a coalition--the Sole Support Mothers' Group--to fight Frank Drea's proposal to shift single mothers off the provincial Family Benefits Program onto the municipal General Welfare Assistance plans. The shift will have great implications for single mothers who depend on family benefits for long-term help needed to raise their children. Such a transfer has already been implemented by the SoCred Government in B.C. with grave consequences for single-parent families. In B.C. the move was made quickly and without warning. In Ontario, activists were quick to pick up warning signals that similar changes will occur in this province if effective action isn't taken.

General Welfare payments - substantially smaller than Family Benefit payments are seen as short-term supplements as compared to the long-term support of Family Benefits. Welfare recipients are under constant pressure to find work and go off Welfare. Thus, single parents argue that the Family Benefits Program is a more humane program than General Welfare. Not surprisingly, Drea's proposal arrived with statements that described single parents as "able-bodied citizens" ready to join the workforce should the opportunity present itself. Thus sole support mothers dependent upon General Welfare will receive welfare on the condition that they look for work while receiving payments.

The implications of this are many. First, unemployment is high and ever-increasing; pickings are slim. Women are traditionally forced to work in low-paying jobs without benefits or union protection. Training programs are inadequate and poorly subsidized. Existing day care services are in crisis with too few subsidized spaces available for the current need. Finally, and importantly, the government is robbing single parents of their right to choose to leave the home to work, or to stay at home with their children if they wish. Action Day Care is struggling to get the government to develop a conglomerate of day care services, including a universal day care system, night care for parents who don't work but require assistance, parent-child drop-in centres, and emergency care for sick children and children of parents who are ill. Action Day Care is actively lobbying for these services because we believe that parents have the right to enter the workforce or to work at home raising children. The provincial government's plan to switch mothers off the Family Benefits Program onto General Welfare withdraws the right to make such a choice. Once again parenting is denied legitimacy and value in society.

On November 26, Action Day Care joined the Sole Support Mothers Group at City Hall to present a deputation to



### SOLE SUPPORT MOTHERS CONTINUED...

the Community Services and Housing Committee. This committee was urged to reject the Provincial government's proposal which was to begin with the implementation of a pilot project in Etobicoke. At this meeting, Alderman Gordon Cressey proposed that a "small advisory committee be formed that would have input into the implementation and monitoring the pilot project, as well as in the development of a long-range policy related to this issue." Furthermore, Cressey stated that he would try to ensure that if single parents are forced onto General Welfare, that they will not be made to work.

Given that it appears that Metro has no choice but to accept Drea's proposal, these motions proposed by Alderman Cressey are indeed a hopeful beginning. What is actually enacted by the Metro Government remains to be seen. Until then, Action Day Care will continue to work with the coalition in its efforts to make its demands heard.

### WHERE WE'RE GOING (Con't)

The Metro Coalition is now discussing its future objectives. We intend to make day care a major issue in the upcoming municipal elections and to put some pressure on Treasurer, Frank Miller at budget time. Action Day Care is continuing to actively participate in both the Ontario and the Metro coalitions.

### Unionizing Support Committee

In 1981, CUPE 2484 successfully organized 11 centres into their local. Collective bargaining proceeded around a central bargaining table with the employers and union representatives from each centre. Most clauses of a comprehensive contract have been agreed

upon, but monetary issues have yet to be settled. Action Day Care will devote more assistance and resources in the new year to aid in the unionization process and support day care teachers in negotiations.

### Towards a Federal Strategy...

Organizations across the country have been in touch with us recently about problems and concerns in their provinces. With a federal election approaching a couple of years down the road, now is the time to begin to think about ways we can effect changes at the federal level. Issues such as the Canada Assistance Plan, the Child Tax Deduction and Credit and Manpower & Employment practices are all federal government jurisdictions that we should look at. Action Day Care has set up a new policy sub-committee to look at policy issues in general and federal legislation in particular.

To accomplish all of these activities we have agreed to meet monthly as a group (the first Thursday of every month) and to set up sub-committees to plan specific tasks. The committee include: a Co-ordinating Committee, a Newsletter Committee, a Press Committee, a Union Support Committee, a Coalitions committee, a policy committee and a financial and fundraising committee. We would encourage anyone interested to come to our regular monthly meetings and join one of the above committees. Also, we plan to have bi-annual meetings for people who cannot get involved on a regular basis but would like to have input and information from time to time.

We think the formation of the new coalitions is an extremely important development in day care as these coalitions pave the way for a really powerful provincial organization. However, we think it is still necessary to keep Action Day Care going in order to take to these coalitions our strong commitment to free universal quality 24 hour child care and all its components as set out in our platform.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 2	7 p.m.	Day Care in Schools meeting at Deerpark School, room 105. (Bring copy of report and recommendations).
Feb. 4	8 p.m.	Action Day Care meeting. 19 Carr St.
Feb. 8	7:30 p.m.	Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto meeting. 18 Grenville St.
Feb. 12	8:00 p.m.	Special screening of "NOT A LOVE STORY". Board of Education Education Centre, 155 College St. Please call Action Day Care to make your reservations.
Feb. 14	2 p.m.	Dec. "Reel to Reel" film series begins, to follow every Sunday at the "Bloor Cinema". Blocks of tickets available. Everyone welcome.
Feb. 28	2 p.m.	"Rosie the Riveter" (Sponsored by Action Day Care)
Feb. 17	9:30 a.m.	Metro Daycare Advisory Meeting. City Hall.
Mar. 4	8 p.m.	Action Day Care meeting. 19 Carr St.
May	T.B.A.	Children's Book Fair: A joint effort by Action Day Care and The Overseas Bookstore.

Coalition for International Women's Day 1982, Meetings:

Feb. 10	7:30 p.m.	University Settlement House
Feb. 17	7:30 p.m.	Cecil St. Community Centre
Feb. 24	7:30 p.m.	Cecil St. Community Centre
Mar. 3	7:30 p.m.	University Settlement House

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name .....

Address ..... Phone # .....

Organization/Affiliation .....

Enclosed \$5.00. Cheque ..... Cash .....