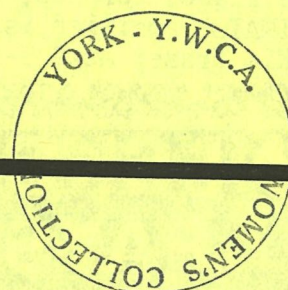
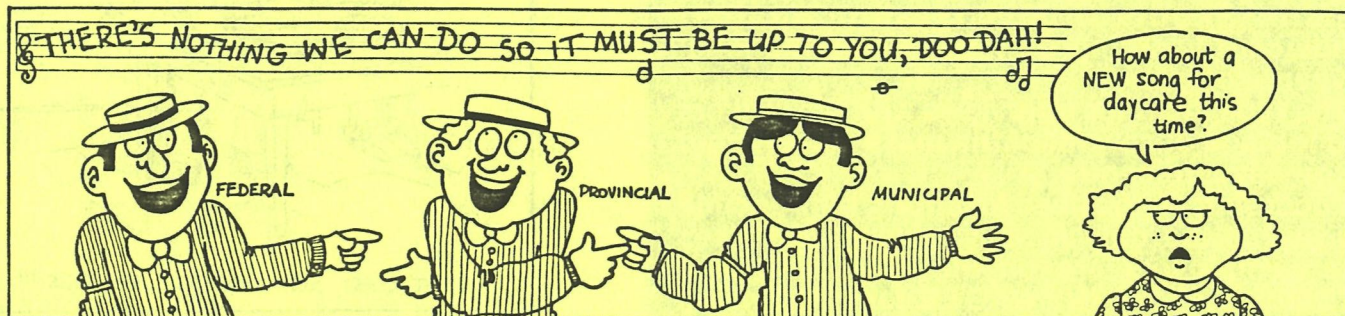


Summer 1984

# Action Day Care News letter



## ELECTION ISSUE



# Jobs



**PINOCCHIO CHILD CARE CENTRE**  
70 Boulton Ave, Toronto, M4M 2J5  
ECE teacher required for children ages 2-9 years old. Starts in September. For more information call Irena Petrini at 463-7625.

**CAMPUS CO-OP DAYCARE**  
124 Devonshire Place, Toronto, M5S 2C9  
PRESCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR Position is now open. Kim Fraser at 979-2133.

**CAMPUS CO-OP DAYCARE**  
124 Devonshire Place, Toronto, M5S 2C9  
INFANT CO-ORDINATOR Position is opening in August. Call Kim Fraser at 979-2133.

**UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT DAYCARE**  
23 Grange Road. Toronto, M5T 1C3  
DAYCARE WORKER work with junior toddler group aged 16 months-26 months.  
DAYCARE WORKER work with preschool group aged 3-5 years. Apply in writing to: Daycare Co-ordinator, University Settlement, 23 Grange Road. Toronto, M5T 1C3

**YORKWOODS COMMUNITY SHIFTWORKERS DAYCARE**  
25 Yorkwoods Gate, Downsview, M3N 1K1  
DAYCARE DIRECTOR position available immediately. Send resume to: 25 Yorkwoods Gate, Downsview, M3N 1K1

**KENNEDY ROAD KIDDIE CARE**  
661 Kennedy Road, Scarborough, M1K 2B8  
SUPPLY TEACHER Position available, also a TEACHERS AID for part time work. Call Lily Dong at 261-1414.

**DANDYLION DAYCARE**  
53 Donlands Ave, Toronto, M4J 3N7  
ECE teacher for small centre. Starts in August. Call Debbie Mitchell at 469-0091

**ST. STEPHENS KING EDWARD**  
112 Lippincott St, Toronto, M5S 2P1  
SUPPLY TEACHER for the summer. 2 days a week/several full weeks. Call Fatima at 922-8705

## MINI SKOOLS PAYS MINI WAGES

**MINI SKOOLS PAYS MINI WAGES** traces the eight-month strike in 1983 by daycare workers at Mini Skools in Mississauga against Kindercare Learning Centers, a multi-national daycare company.

The tape includes interviews with the strikers and footage of several of the mass pickets held at the daycare centre.

Focussing on the need for strong rank and file activity as the only means of winning strikes when employers are on the offensive, **MINI SKOOLS PAYS MINI WAGES** takes a critical look at the tactics of the union bureaucracy and examines the reasons for the strike's defeat.

**For distribution details, contact:**  
9 Cunningham Ave., Toronto M6K 1P1



# 1984

It is time to stop in the middle of our mad rush to take stock of where the daycare movement is at.

Action Day Care was formed five years ago. Since then, the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare, the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, and the Daycare Coalition of Metro Toronto have been formed. Daycare has moved into the social and political arena in an unprecedented way.

In 1984 alone, the daycare movement can take credit for winning significant victories at municipal, provincial and federal levels. The victories we record include: Deputy Premier Welch's statement that "daycare is not a welfare service", the establishment of a Federal Task Force on daycare, the provincial hearings being planned throughout Ontario by the Standing Committee on Social Development, the widespread and supportive media coverage, the placement of daycare high on the agenda of the joint Federal-provincial meetings of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, the victories at the Metro level, and the massive growth and expansion of daycare organizations.

We have won Round 1 - we've birthed a vigorous and healthy daycare movement.

Now is the time for Round 2 - to move heaven and earth to effective hands-on legislative changes. We must impact in concrete ways on municipal, provincial and federal government.

This new Round 2 will demand even more energy, passion and commitment. We are in for a long haul - and we must be ready for it.

We at Action Day Care, in reflection upon a half-decade of political activism, know we have accomplished near-miracles.

But the fight for a new daycare system is far from won.

We need the time and energy of committed daycare supporters. We need to multiply our numbers. We need a national daycare communication network. Many of you will be reading the Action Day Care newsletter for the first time. Take a moment now to fill out the subscription form on page 19. Mail it in - and make a donation.

Money: there isn't enough of it. We are going to need increased funding to carry out the intensive campaigns that 1985 undoubtedly holds in store. Action Day Care needs donations.

And finally - remember, when it all feels too over-whelming, that we are going to win. The dream we all share of a new and better daycare system will one day be a reality.

All of us just need to keep pushing.

# Make Daycare Your Election Issue

- \*\*\*\*\*
1. Action Day Care and the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association are assisting NAC, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, in preparing a public meeting with the three federal party leaders on women's issues. It will take place in mid-August. Watch the papers for further details or call Action Day Care (416) 977-6698, or contact your local representative of the CDCAA.
  2. Action Day Care, the Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto, and the CDCAA will be targeting key ridings in Metro in which to make day care an issue of great importance. These ridings may include: Spadina, York-Scarborough, and Davenport. Watch your riding for all-candidates meetings and call Action Day Care for details on the ridings to be rallied.
  3. The CDCAA has produced a federal election day care kit which includes many facts you should know about day care. Also in the kit are ideas for action, outlines of the present day care system and suggestions for a better day care system. Get your hands on a copy. Begin to make day care an issue for your friends, neighbours and political candidates.
- The kits are available from the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association office or from your provincial steering committee member. See the CDCAA article in this newsletter for names and addresses.
- \*\*\*\*\*

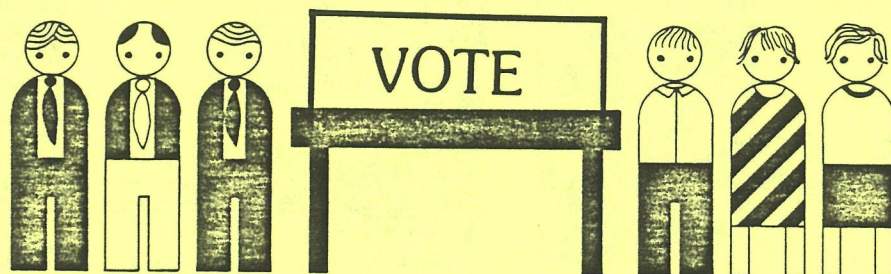
# ELECTION FEVER

Day care is a political issue. The existing services are expensive, underfunded and isolated. Good day care is available only to those poor enough to qualify for subsidy or those rich enough to pay high fees in return for a tax deduction. There is an extreme shortage of high quality, affordable care.

In 1984, over 50% of mothers with children under six years of age are working. At least 85% of children under 12 years of age are in child care arrangements outside their home. Too often, for these children, this informal system means spending the day watching T.V. and eating nutritionally inadequate foods, with any number of children under one woman's roof. Children need quality care, early child care programs with low student-teacher ratios. Parents need good quality regulated care for their children. Women need day care to have equal

labour participation opportunities. Day care is an essential service: a political issue. Day care in Canada is a welfare service, funded under the general enabling legislation of the Canadian welfare system, CAP (the Canada Assistance Plan). To change the day care system away from the welfare mode to a universally accessible, publicly funded system organized as the right of parents and children, requires legislative action from the Federal Government.

You can make day care an issue in the federal election. Women, the Canadian majority, and the most frequent users of day care, can use their voting power to convince politicians that day care counts. Men and women can make their ridings aware of day care issues by attending all-candidates meetings, asking day care questions, participating in radio phone-ins, and making the press aware of the day care issue.



# Canadian Daycare Advocacy Association: CAMPAIGN: ELECTION

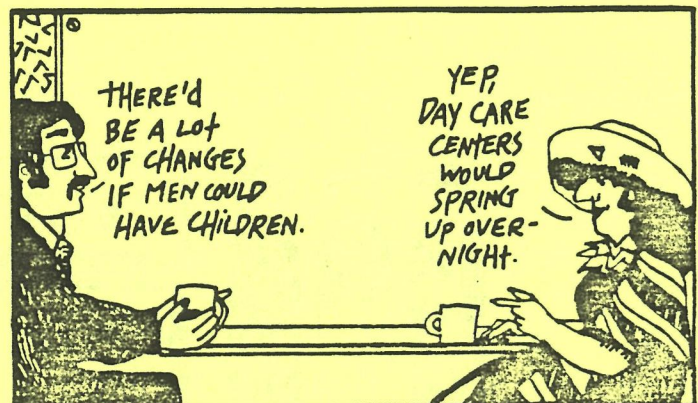
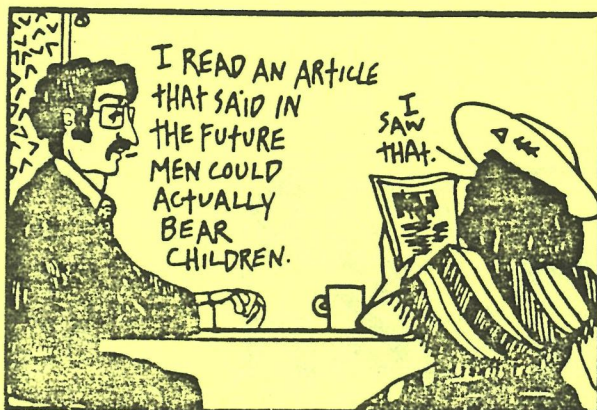
On May 28 the historic first meeting of the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association pledged to make day care a federal election issue. Recognizing the current day care crisis, Canada's national day care organization has committed itself to a campaign to make day care a vital issue on the federal political agenda.

The CDCAA, whose broad membership of labour, community groups, women's organizations, day care workers and centres, represents hundreds of thousands of Canadian voters, is making day care a Charter of Rights Issue. The need for childcare to ensure the equal opportunities guaranteed under the Charter of Rights for working mothers and fathers demands a high quality, non-profit, non-sexist, non-compulsory day care system in Canada.

To date, the CDCAA election campaign has been very active. All 3 party leaders have been lobbied and grilled on their day care policies; a federal election kit has been produced and distributed across Canada (copies are available from your provincial representative); and all-candidate meetings with key party spokespeople are being planned in co-ordination with NAC, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

The CDCAA is a non-profit voluntary organization committed to establishing a new day care system in Canada. It is active in lobbying politicians, rallying day care workers and parents, and keeping day care a hot issue in the press. Its newly-elected steering committee is made up of 2 representatives from each province plus territories. Its national policy paper is available from Ottawa office or your provincial representative.

To find out more, including how to become active in the CDCAA, contact the national office, or the steering committee member representing your province.



# C.D.C.A.A.

## Representatives

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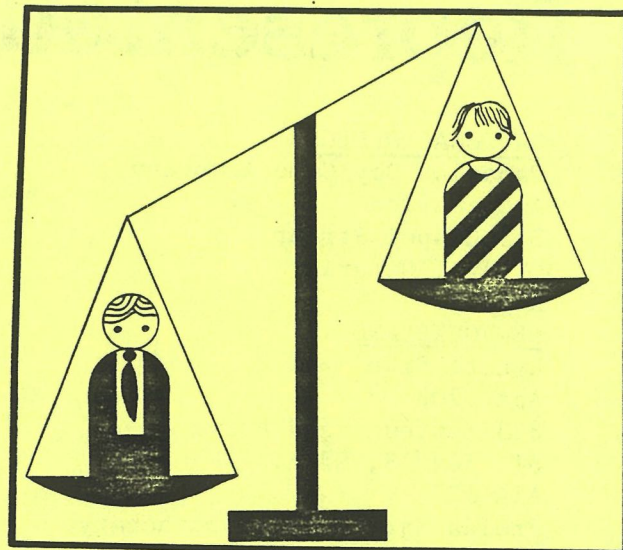
### Yukon

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# Erola Announces Federal Daycare Task Force



The Honorable Judy Erola, Federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, announced the creation of a federal task force at the May 28 - 30, 1984 Federal-Provincial Conference on the Status of Women. The purpose of the task force is to examine day care services across Canada and to make recommendations to the Minister. The task force will report to the Minister by December, 1984.

Action Day Care is encouraged by the announcement of the federal task force. The political recognition of day care is clearly a victory for the day care community. We are anticipating recommendations which will lead to a comprehensive, quality day care system in Canada.

The task force has called for written submissions from the day care community as the only form of public input, despite an earlier agreement to host three public meetings. It is absolutely vital that the national study of the Canadian day care system being undertaken by the task force receive extensive community input which can only be achieved through public forums.

There are two ways day care supporters can participate at this time:

Participate in the task force by making a written submission. Let's make a unified call to the federal government to lead the way

out of the current user-fee welfare service model to a universal, comprehensive day care system that offers real choice. There is some concern in the day care community that the task force will lean towards changes to the tax system as a "quick fix" for childcare. Research has proven that day care funding through the tax system will not build a day care system in Canada. (Tax funding will expand the informal system and profit-making day care). No one would dream that giving individual parents an education tax deduction would build a public school system --- but proponents of day care funding through the tax system believe that a day care system can be built this way.

Urge the task force to host public meetings to provide opportunities for community consultation. If the task force doesn't provide forums for input and exchange, the day care community will be forced to sponsor meetings and invite members of the task force to attend.

Write the task force expressing your intent and interest in making a written submission and letting them know you want a public forum. Send copies of your correspondence to Erola, your M.P., CDCAA and Action Day Care.

# "Tell It Like It Is"

## Provincial Daycare Hearings

It all started in October, when the Standing Committee on Social Development called for public input into the final draft of the Child and Family Services Act. Somehow (it must have been a mistake), the Day Nurseries Act was excluded. The daycare community arranged to point out this omission to the Committee, and two briefs on behalf of some 70 different centres and organizations, were presented by two different panels.

One recommendation was made: "... that the Standing Committee on Social Development recommend as an integral component of its report on the Child and Family Services Act that as ... comprehensive early childhood services have not been contained in this legislation, that a Special Parliamentary Committee be immediately established to ensure the development of appropriate legislation to implement a comprehensive system of early childhood services in Ontario."

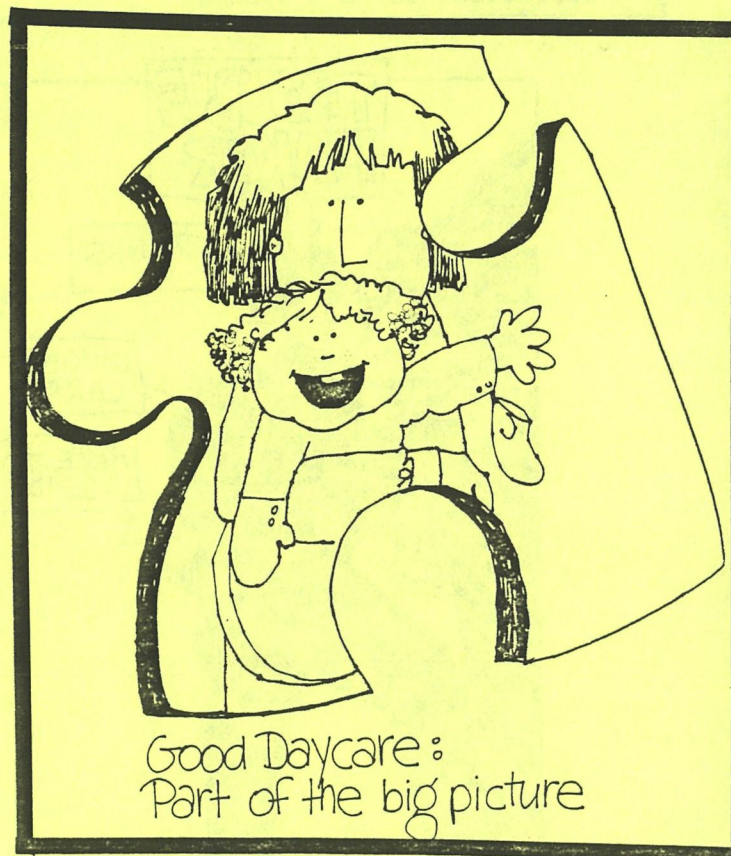
When the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care met for its conference and lobby in early May, participants wondered what happened to the daycare community's recommendation. This question was put before members of the Standing Committee who appeared before Coalition members during our own "daycare hearings".

We were very polite, and very firm. Yes, we understood that the Committee was very busy with important issues. We also understood that our children's well-being while we were away from them was a crucial issue that must be addressed.

Shortly after the May 7 lobby, it was announced that the Standing Committee agreed that the Day Nurseries Act needed to be reviewed. That's what these hearings are all about.

. As of this date, the exact dates are not known, because of the September 4 federal elections. The Committee will be holding their hearings in September in Toronto, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Sudbury, Oshawa and Windsor.

The deadline for written submissions is August 31. People can also make oral presentations. To register call Lyn Mellock at 965-5774. ...continued on page 13



# Daycare Coalition of Metro Toronto

## VICTORY

Subsidized daycare will not be limited to the poorest of the poor. The massive problem of daycare affordability was recognized in a report prepared by Metro Children's Services staff to Community Services and Housing Committee that rejected a previous proposal presented last fall to limit the receipt of subsidized daycare to only the very lowest of low-income families.

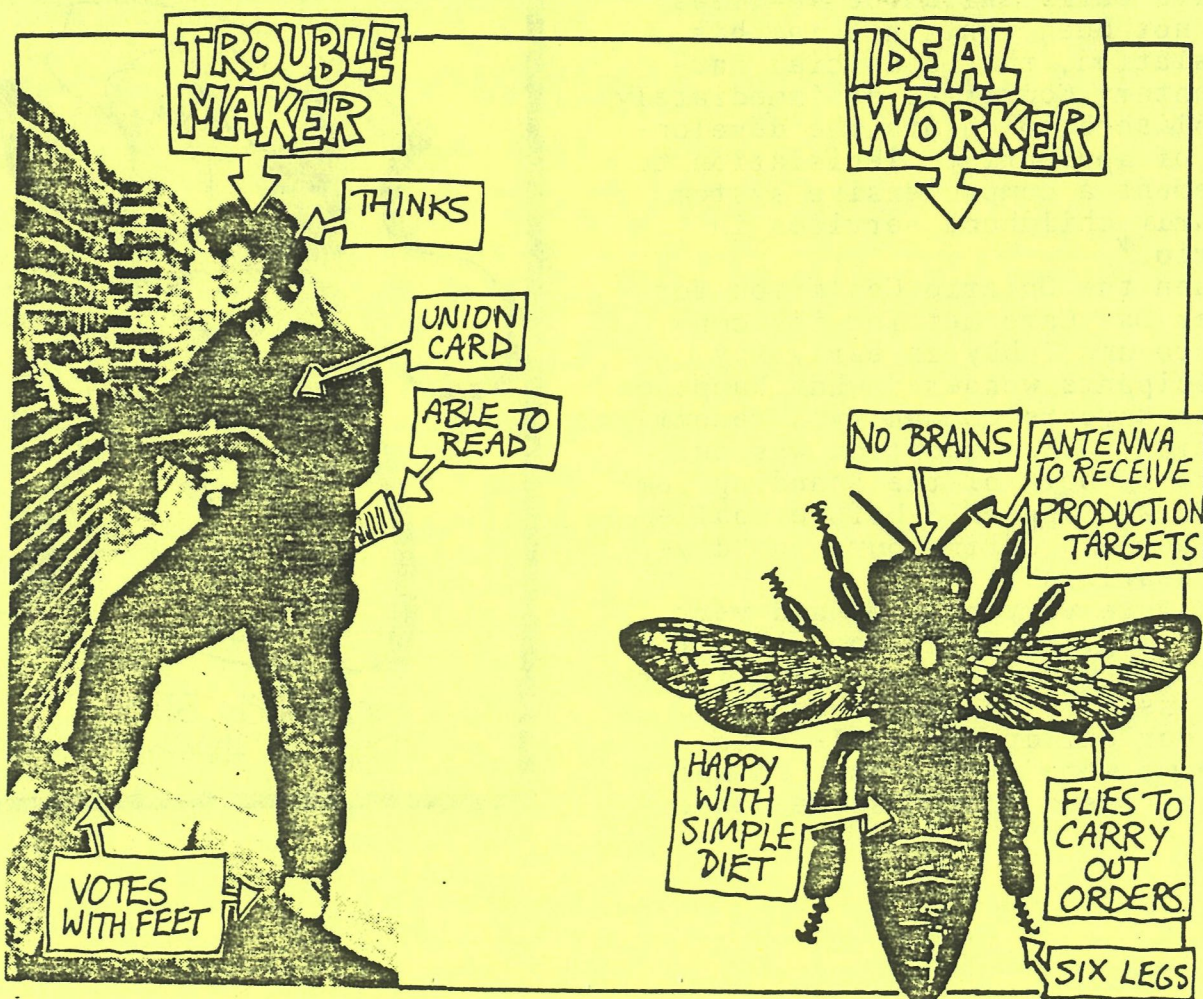
On May 10, staff presented their report, a follow-up to their position paper, "Determining Priority Admission to Subsidized Daycare", recommending Option F. Option F was developed by the Daycare Coalition of Metro Toronto. The Coalition called for a fair, first-come, first-served waiting list for all eligible parents, coupled with the expansion of the numbers of subsidized daycare spaces.

The Coalition had organized a petition drive and lobbying campaign to win support for Option F. A large public forum held on March 27 indicated that daycare providers and consumers were all in support of the Coalition proposal.

Nevertheless, it was a surprise when Community Services and Housing Committee unanimously accepted the staff report.

The impact of this victory is very significant. Metro has recognized that divide-and-conquer tactics, which attempt to pit needy and eligible parents against each other by "prioritizing" who has the greater need, will not work.

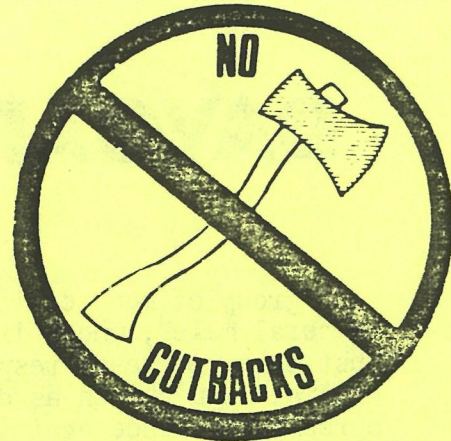
The only way to move forward is to win more subsidized daycare spaces to meet the needs of the thousands of Metro children and their families who need assistance in paying the high cost of good daycare.



# Provincial Underfunding Ottawa Cutbacks: 250 spaces gone

As a direct result of under-funding by the Ontario government, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton may be forced to eliminate over 250 daycare spaces which will result in the loss of over 30 daycare worker's jobs. At the Regional Council meeting on July 11th, a motion was carried to close 4 municipal centres, cutback spaces in 2 others, and remove 115 spaces from purchase-of-service agencies. A motion to reconsider this decision was also carried, consequently the issue will be re-discussed on Aug. 8. However, if negotiations with the Province are not successfully completed by then, the Region will be forced to either proceed with the cut-backs or provide 100% funding.

This crisis is a direct result of the province refusing to match the monies that Ottawa-Carleton is willing to spend on daycare. In 1983, in order to maintain existing levels of service, a deficit was incurred as the 5% increase permitted by the Province was not sufficient. This deficit was covered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services by allowing the Region to borrow from its 1984 allocation, in addition to implementing cost-saving measures including a 30% reduction in family home daycare funding. However, the base rate for 1984 funding was not adjusted, consequently the problem has been compounded in 1984. In order to avoid closures the Province of Ontario would have to spend an estimated \$306,000. It has refused to do so. The Region is prepared to pay its share, however, without Provincial cost-sharing, it cannot access the matching Federal dollars. It is this refusal that has led to the decision by the Region to cut back spaces.



The situation is critical. Pressure from across the Province must be applied immediately to the Provincial government if these spaces are to be saved. The daycare community in Ottawa-Carleton has rallied to the cause. Petitions are being circulated, letters written, politicians lobbied and a public meeting is being planned for the end of July. Support from the daycare community outside of Ottawa-Carleton is crucial. Please write or phone the Hon. Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services and circulate the petition included in this newsletter. Remember, your community may be next.



# DAYCARE BEFORE THE DOME

A group of men, calling themselves "general male", who believe that men must take increased responsibility for crucial issues such as daycare, pornography, violence against women, and choice on abortion raised the issue of "Daycare Before The Dome" at the Blue Jay's game at CNE Stadium on Father's Day, June 17. Several thousand leaflets describing the daycare crisis in Ontario were distributed prior to the start of the game, and huge banners reading "Dads for Day Care", and "Day Care Before The Dome" were raised by the men between innings in the Stadium itself.

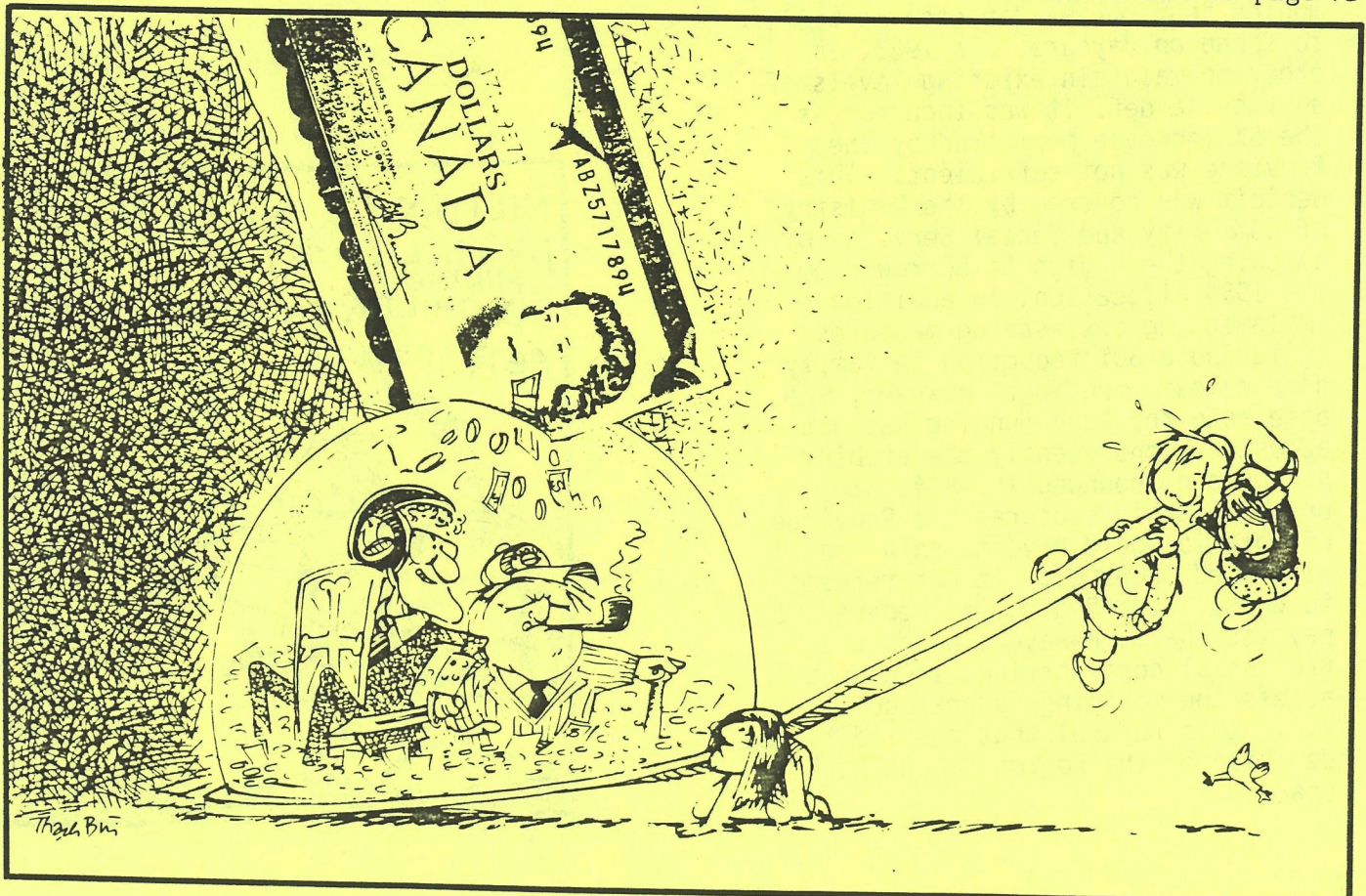
Unfortunately, it was pouring rain—not the best day for this action. Many sports fans want the dome regardless of who is paying for it, or what else remains unfunded; certainly there was little sympathy for the "no dome"

proposal as the fans got drenched. It must be said, however, that there was no harassment by fans of the men protesting nor objections to their actions.

The event was organized by a group of men who annually produce a leaflet directed towards men on International Women's Day. The group has adopted the position that sexism and patriarchy are issues which should be addressed by both women and men and have set about examining their own role in reproducing these problems, and exploring ways in which men can actively fight for change.

Father's Day and the male-dominated sports environment coincided and presented an opportunity to provide visible support for the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare's campaign for a direct provincial grant of \$7 per child per day to all licensed, non-profit centres. The men involved in the action believe that every parent should be able to use daycare with confidence and without

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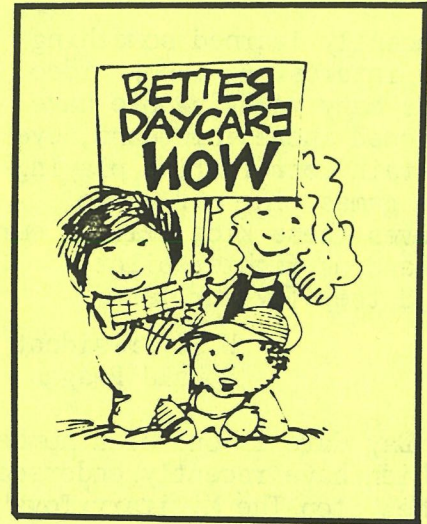
# Daycare Before the Dome continued

any cost barrier. The fact that all levels of government are committing large amounts of public funds to the dome made it an obvious target.

Although the elements were less than supportive, the event was considered by the group to have been successful. The issue of daycare was raised at CNE Stadium, there was newspaper and radio coverage of the action and the group has received calls from other interested men.

The next action is currently being planned by the group which has adopted the temporary name of "general male". It will focus on another area where men are part of the problem, and not enough of the solution!

For further information please write to: "general male", C/O PRG 386 Bloor St. W., Toronto, M5S 1X4.



Tony Dean, for General Male

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## Provincial Hearings continued

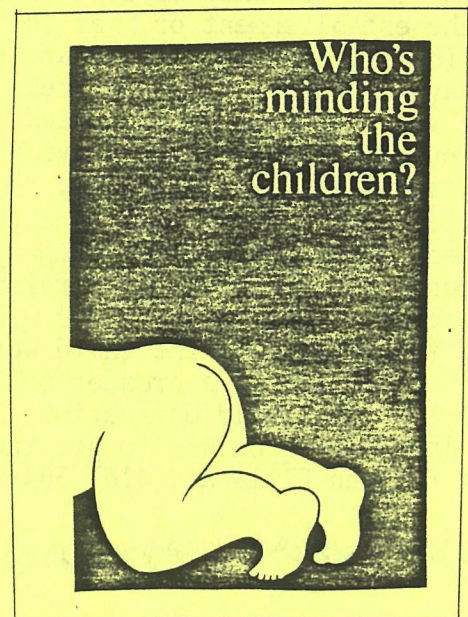
We all know there is no "day care system" in this province. We know centres are closing. We know daycare workers are losing their jobs. We know fees get higher while access and wages get lower. We know the Tories are guilty of neglecting daycare at best, and sabotaging what little remains at worst.

From our own personal experiences, to our specific recommendations for policy changes, the Standing Committee is our opportunity to "tell is like it is", and how we insist it should be.

Talk to your co-workers, parents and boards and prepare a presentation. Talk to your union locals and your community organizations and prepare a presentation.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare sees these hearings as a victory and will be actively involved in supporting and organizing for them. For more information, call the Coalition at 966-3424, ext. 229 or 977-6698.

See you and hear you at the hearings.



**Bang, Bang,**  
**YOU'RE DEAD!**

"I recently learned something quite interesting about video games. Many young people have developed incredible hand, eye and brain coordination playing those games. The Air Force believes these kids will be our outstanding fighter pilots, should they fly our jets."

- U.S. President Ronald Reagan

Action Day Care is one of a number of groups which have recently endorsed and joined the "Stop The Military Toys" Campaign being sponsored by the Alliance For Non-Violent Action (A.N.V.A.).

An A.N.V.A. spokesperson explained the opposition to war toys this way: "Any vision of the future without war and mass killing is impossible if our children are being raised to be passive consumers of the military mentality. The obsession with violence and 'defeating the neighbour' dominates this society. If our society supports the mass psychological 'conscription' of the young into the military, then no wonder we now face the very real possibility of nuclear war in the future."

The Campaign is built on the belief that the socialization of children towards violence is dangerous and unhealthy. It is focusing on a consumer boycott of war toys, the establishment of "war toy free zones" (homes, schools, or daycare centres which have decided not to buy, sell or use war toys and video games), and the promotion of non-violent creative responses to conflict through play.

In addition to the boycott and the public education work of the campaign, the ANVA-sponsored project is also raising funds. Five percent of the funds raised will be donated to children of the third world, to place the Campaign in a broader political context of first world domination.

For information on how to get involved,  
contact Deborah Ellis at (416) 364-1901.



"How about our new 'nuclear warhead' model?"

## Building the campaign

- Printing and distributing a campaign organizers handbook which will be issued on the local level as an educational/organizers guide
- a "on-the streets" leaflet campaign to start for this Christmas. This will focus upon the Bay and Eatons as two major retailers of military toys
- a guide to alternative games and celebrations. Essential to this work is building a consciousness of alternatives to the present consumeristic militaristic values in our society. This guide will appear in our handbook and in the leaflets we hand out to petition others not to shop at Eatons or the Bay
- Non-violent action which will include an alternative presence at Santa Claus parades, street theatre and Santa Claus "reclaim the toys" actions
- a solid, nationwide boycott campaign of military toys and video games. We want to focus this fall on the military toys aspect of the campaign. As we expand, we believe we can move more effectively to boycott the video games. This element of our work will be based upon corporate research of the companies involved and closer working relationship with the working people who are employed by these corporations
- the building of an effective clearing house to co-ordinate the groups and individuals who join this campaign. Successful boycotts must be able to exert sound economic pressure on the corporate interests involved. To do this, we will require effective co-ordination and planning

Richmond Hill

# MOTHERS FIGHT BACK

The Municipality of the Region of York has abruptly dropped its support for a subsidy programme enabling low-income children to attend a YMCA-run summer camp. The Region has prioritized pre-school over school-aged children, citing a shortage of dollars, leaving the families of many school-aged children out in the cold.

At a meeting called in early May by the YMCA to explain what financial assistance would be available for children attending summer camp, parents (mostly single mothers) were told that the Regional Municipality of York had run out of money and no subsidies were available. With only 6 weeks until school was out, the mothers were left with no summer childcare arrangements.

Instead of quietly going home, a group of determined mothers fought back. They phoned their politicians, trying to get explanations and support. All they got (from the politicians who bothered to respond) was buck-passing. When their organizing efforts got media attention, the parent group was informed they would be taken care of and to call off a public meeting.

The parent group cancelled their public meeting and applied for "slush" funds. They were told that many of them didn't qualify. Once again they were back to square one. Now it was almost the end of June, and school was nearly out.

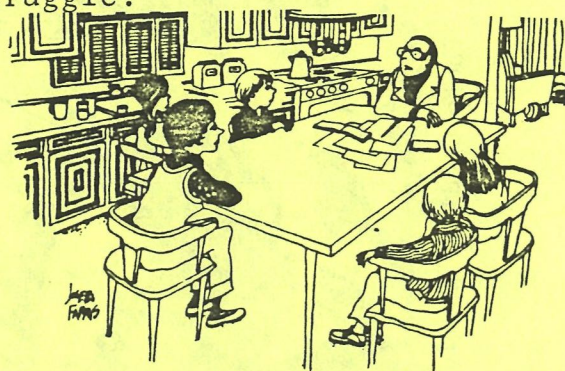
They got busy and organized a meeting with politicians. Only one elected representative showed up, Gordon Rowe, from the Region of York, as well as a federal Liberal candidate and a researcher from the provincial Liberal Party. Gordon Rowe only blamed the province for the lack of funds.

Meanwhile, the YMCA had come to the rescue by agreeing to subsidize the parents. They found the funds by going into debt, something neither the Province or the Region had been willing to do.

How many other parents are finding out at the last minute that subsidies for which they qualify just aren't there? How many young children are being left on their own this summer because there's no one to look after them?

The women in Richmond Hill were lucky that the YMCA was willing and able to help them. But childcare is a social responsibility, and it should not be left to charities to come up with the money to subsidize children that the Tory government continues to ignore.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care applauds the women in Richmond Hill for their fight back. The Coalition will continue to support them in their follow-up campaign to put pressure on the regional and provincial governments. The mothers of Richmond Hill are not alone in their struggle.



*"I've called the family together to announce that, because of inflation, I'm going to have to let two of you go."*

## Daycare in El Salvador

By Gini Dickie

Day care as we know it in Canada has been almost unheard of in El Salvador. Unfortunately there seems to be a relationship between war and increased day care. Just as the number of day nurseries increased in Toronto during World War II so that women could participate in wartime production, day care has become a necessity in the FDR-FMLN controlled zones of El Salvador. The popular liberation forces control one-third of the country at this time with another large area constantly disputed. The people in the controlled zones have elected their own local governments and are highly

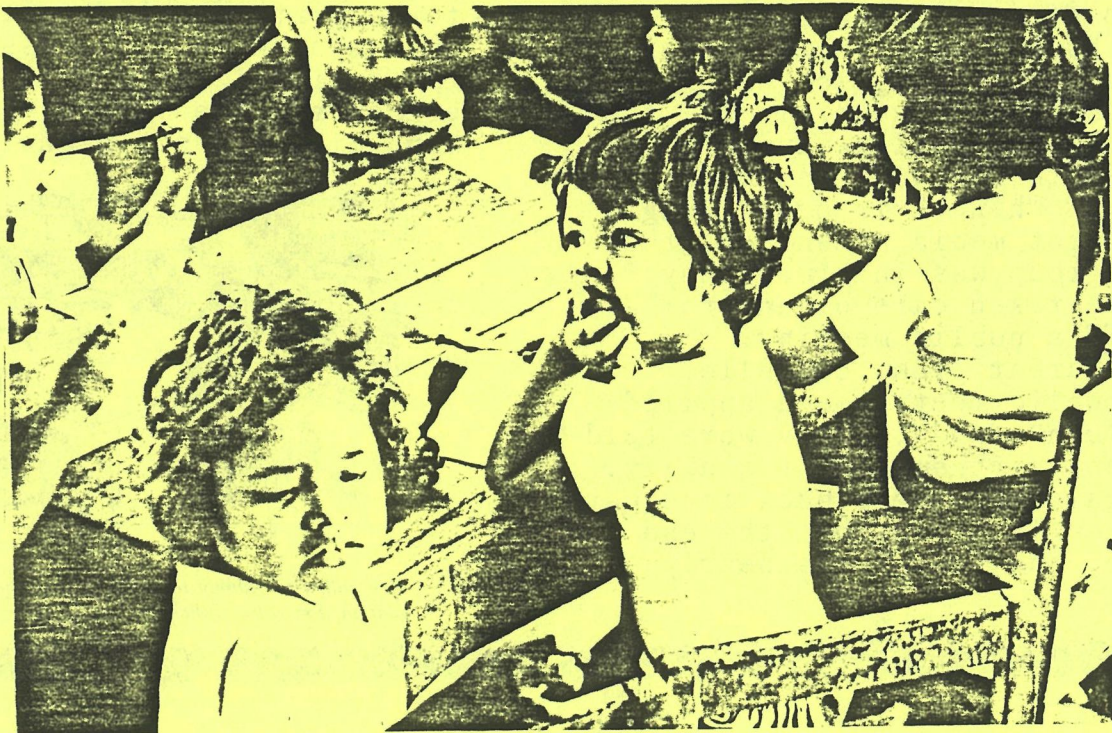
organized in the areas of production, health, education, culture and other essential services. Women participate in all of these areas as well as in the liberation army. Therefore it has been absolutely necessary to create day care centres, where infants and young children can be cared for during the absence of their parents - which is sometimes for days or even weeks at a time.

The Women's Association of El Salvador (AMES) is struggling for women's rights within the context of the struggle for national liberation, and is an affiliate of the FDR-FMLN. Day care has been a high priority in AMES' work and of course, unlike the situation in post-war Toronto, AMES expects to see free, universal day care as part of the new society to be created in a liberated post-war El Salvador.

Early this year an AMES' representative, Ester Ramirez, toured Canada. Action Day Care was one of the sponsors of the Toronto public meeting at which she spoke on February 25th. Ester described in great detail the joys and sorrows of daily life in the controlled zones of El Salvador. She spoke of the challenge of organizing a new society and the constant fear of bombardment by sophisticated American-supplied planes and weapons.

...continued on page 17

Photo Credit: Ingrid Mayrhofer



# El Salvador continued

She told us about the tremendous commitment, the sacrifices and the hard work of the people in these areas -- and she told us about the AMES day care centre project.

The average number of people in a community located in these zones is 1,000 to 1,500 and it is estimated that 45-55% of the children are between the ages of 1 and 6 years. Approximately 100 to 500 children, per community, are being cared for by their parents, usually by their mothers.

There are two principal objectives in creating day care centres. The first is to offer parents a place that will take responsible care of their children, either on a daily or more extended basis. This will allow more women to participate in the many jobs both in production and in politics, which are of vital importance to the community. The second is to prepare the children for the responsibilities that await them in the creation of a new society. Emphasis is placed on the development of new social relationships among the children, as well as on educational skills.

Because the day care centres are being built in the midst of a war, both the number of people and type of supplies must be easily mobile. These circumstances demand extra care; therefore, the number of children is limited to 50 per centre, with a staff of 5 adults. The immediate objective is two day care centres in each community, to meet the urgent need.

Educational materials are limited to paper, pencils, blocks of wood to make desks, and various rudimentary learning materials. Bedding and basic kitchen equipment are also supplied. A concerted attempt is made to work with local materials that can be easily replaced. Food for the centres is provided by the local communities.

During her cross-country tour, Ester Ramirez urged Canadians to support the AMES Day Care Project. She suggested that groups of people, whenever possible, try to raise money for child-care, which costs only \$1,000.

In addition to child care in the controlled zones of El Salvador, AMES also runs a day care centre for Salvadorean refugees in Managua, Nicaragua. The children in this day care centre are receiving 3 meals a day, vitamin supplements, nutritional status screening, health care and emotional support. However there is a shortage of staff, especially staff trained to work with pre-schoolers. This centre also needs materials - and a refrigerator!

A woman from "Friends Of AMES" in Seattle, Washington wrote about her visit to the centre in Managua... "I worked at the childcare centre in Managua a few days - mostly with the 'lactantes' - the infants. I also worked with the nurse who is there full-time and a couple of volunteer physicians. Also, one afternoon we had a project with the pre-school children... presenting pictures U.S. children had made for the children of the childcare centre (including the presentation of a book made by children and teachers of a centre in Seattle... 'Gentle Dragon Childcare Centre'... who would like to be the 'Sister School' to the AMES childcare centre. Friends of AMES is in the process of working on that in Seattle to develop this project further). The major project, however, that I worked on with the AMES centre while I was there... was taking lots of slides and interviews so that I can produce a children's slide show to promote the children to children campaign in the U.S. and Canada. I am also putting together a slide show on my trip, focusing on AMES and Salvadorean refugees, for the adults here in North America."

The Friends of AMES group in Toronto is looking forward to using these resources when they are available.

Meanwhile, until these resources are ready for use, Friends of AMES would like some feedback from Action Day Care Newsletter readers on the interest in possible twinning of day care centres, and raising material and financial support for both the centre in Managua and those in the FDR-FMLN controlled zones of El Salvador.

If you have some ideas or suggestions or would like to work with us, please call Axelle (783-5146) or Gini (531-3912).

# ACTION DAY CARE

## Third Annual Fun Run for Daycare

A giant "Thank You!" to everyone who participated in the Third Annual Fun Run For Day Care. The May 27 Run was a beautiful, sunny day, and we had a great turn-out of volunteers, runners, and supporters.

A total of 214 runners, representing 33 daycare centres, and 5 non-profit organizations provided the entertainment for a host of arm-chair daycare enthusiasts.

Funds which were raised by runners will be used by centres to purchase much-needed equipment, and to try to stretch the fraying shoe-string that ties a daycare centre budget together. The funds raised for Action Day Care will help us continue to be strong

advocates for universally-accessible, publicly-funded, non-profit, quality daycare. While a final figure is not yet in, it is anticipated that between \$8,000 and \$10,000 was raised by the Run.

Action Day Care wants to thank all volunteers, runners and donors for helping to make the Run such a success. We are looking forward to even more participation and fun next year.

Stay tuned for information about the Fourth Annual Run.

P.S.: Don't forget to submit your sponsor money as soon as possible!



Photo Credit: Ev McKee

# We need more day care

What's a working mother or father to do with his or her 2-year-old if there's nobody at home in the family to take care of the child?

It's a far-reaching problem. There are 210,000 pre-school-age children in Ontario whose parents both work full-time or whose single mothers or fathers work full-time. What do these parents do?

Affluent parents will pay \$150 a week or more to hire a professional nanny. But the vast majority of parents consider themselves lucky if they can find a spot in a licensed day-care centre or a supervised private home where staff are specially trained. Many have to rely on unskilled baby-sitters.

As Metro's Social Planning Council points out, with only 51,000 licensed full-time day-care spaces, Ontario falls almost 84,000 spaces short of what's needed to give the children of middle and lower income parents quality daycare. Parents of only about one child in three are satisfied with the care they're in.

The result is many parents are forced to leave their children with the neighbor down the street who takes in children, or with a sitter. Often parents have no way of knowing if the child is being parked in front of a TV all day or is being fed properly. Since many working parents don't have the time, the money or the expertise to shop for

quality care givers, no one knows how many children are missing out on nutritious meals, stimulating play, outdoor activities and attention to their development.

This is not fair to a generation of children in their formative years, nor to their anxious parents. And it's not a problem that's going to go away. More than half of Canadian women now work outside the home. The main reason wives are returning to the workforce in record numbers, according to Statistics Canada, is the sheer need for money to maintain their family's income.

What's needed is a much better range of affordable services to ensure that children are properly cared for while their parents work. We need more licensed day-care spaces — both in day nurseries and in supervised private homes — and more subsidized spaces. Employers need to make an effort to meet day-care needs. And since care in licensed centres costs working parents on average \$5,000 a year, such costs should be fully deductible from income tax as a business expense.

Both the federal and Ontario governments have announced reviews of child-care services. It's not just an issue concerning the needy. The need is widespread and urgent.

Toronto Star, June 5, 1984

## Action Day Care is...

Action Day Care is an organization of parents, teachers, day care workers, representatives from community organizations, women's organizations, and trade unions. We believe that every child has the right to quality day care - paid for by the government. We feel that day care must become a universal service, although not compulsory. Day care should be a provincial responsibility, community centred and a right of the many.

Action Day Care regularly publishes a newsletter, containing information of interest to people active in day care. The newsletter is a valuable resource for organizations, as well as individuals interested in being kept up-to-date on the latest debates and goings-on in the day care community. An annual subscription may be obtained by mailing the below:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

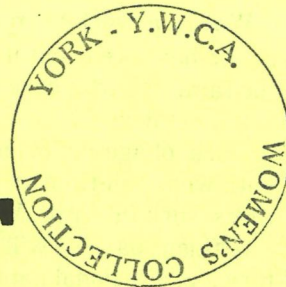
POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL FEE; Please enclose cheques or money orders: \$10/yr - institutional rate, \_\_\_\_\_  
(tick one) \$5/yr - individual rate \_\_\_\_\_  
\$2/yr - students, unemployed \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Action Day Care, 345 Adelaide St. W, Suite 600, Toronto, Ont., M5V 1R5

# Calendar



- |             |              |   |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| July 19     | 7 pm - 10:30 | Boat Cruise on the Trillium. \$20 per person - music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. All proceeds to the Gerrard Resource Centre, an early childhood education resource for parents, care-givers and childcare agencies.<br>For more info, call Pam, 979-5000, ext. 633 |
| July 24     | 7:30 pm      | OCAC meeting to plan Metro all-candidate meetings on women's issues. Fireside Room, 427 Bloor St. W.<br>For more info. call 532-8193  |
| August 2    | 7:30 pm      | Action Day Care meeting. 345 Adelaide St. W.  |
| August 2    | 1:30 pm      | Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto - Watchdog Committee. A meeting to plan fall campaign.<br>All interested people welcome. Call Susan, 977-6698   |
| August 12   | 1:30 pm      | Steering Committee Meeting of Ontario Coalition for Better Day care. 345 Adelaide St. W.  |
| September 4 |              | Federal Election<br>Cast your vote in favour of daycare.  |
| Sept. 5-17  |              | Standing Committee on Social Development Hearings on Daycare. Queen's Park, Room 151, Toronto   |
| September   |              | Metro Childrens Advisory Group Hearings on School Aged Daycare. Info: 977-6698  |

