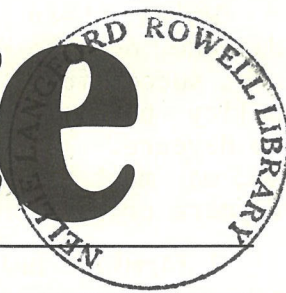


The Day Care Advocate



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Association canadienne pour la promotion des services de garde à l'enfance

Issue #3

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Looking ahead

As we approach our second birthday, we think, once again, there's a lot to celebrate.

A new office. A successful federal lobby and daycare election campaign. A Ministerial Task Force on Child Care, which will soon release its findings. A continuously growing membership and support network. A more secure funding base. And soon, as we requested and pushed for, a special parliamentary task force on child care will be criss-crossing the country.

Daycare, we believe, has been firmly placed on the social and political agenda. But we can't grow complacent. We're facing an historic turning-point. We've got to look ahead... and plan ahead... and make sure the potential of the parliamentary task force is fully utilized.

Daycare needs are now publicly acknowledged. We've had scores of studies. Another Royal Commission has called for government-funded, comprehensive childcare services. The people of Canada want high quality, affordable, universally accessible childcare services.

The parliamentary task force has the resources and clout to get results. So we have to tell them, right across the country, what we want.

The CDCAA will soon be distributing our proposals for a new child care financing act. Use it to organize for the task force in your area of the country.

Let's continue to look ahead together.

From the chair

Hello! Next month our Association will celebrate its second anniversary. These hallmark days help to put things in perspective. So much and yet so little has happened with daycare.

As a mother of a little one attending daycare, I know from personal experience how much today's parents need high quality childcare support. And yet, although nearly three years have passed since our most successful Canadian daycare conference, the federal government has done nothing to improve daycare in Canada.

The selectively subsidized user-fee system rumbles on - a relic of the 19th

century approach to social policy. And of course, all the problems that result from this "system" approach persist - the questionable and uneven quality of much childcare... the lack of sufficient spaces... the prohibitive user-fees confronted by parents... and the continued dependence on the exploitation of those who work in daycare.

So little from the government. So much from the people. The daycare movement has matured and grown by leaps and bounds. The CDCAA, which is clearly providing a cross country focus for advocates, has developed much more quickly than any of us dared dream possible. This is an association whose time has come!

Our critique of the selectively subsidized user-fee approach and our targeting the federal government for new, enlightened initiatives has been warmly welcomed from one end of the country to the other. And your response to our lobby calls has had an impact.

Our lobby last May provoked the Liberals to set up the Ministerial Task Force on Child Care. Our daycare election campaign was a great success - election promises were made and the federal government used its maiden Throne Speech to announce a Parliamentary Task Force.

I'm convinced that in each of these instances our two-pronged strategy worked, that is a high profile national presence (press conferences, meetings with MPs, etc.) coupled with a grass-roots campaign of people writing/visiting local MPs, organizing in their communities, using the local media, etc.. I know from speaking to politicians from all parties the impact was enormous.

As we move to the next stage of our campaign, both elements of our strategy have to be attended to... and strengthened. One will not work without the other.

We've now established an office in Ottawa with two staff. This has been a great help and improved our co-ordination tremendously. It's been made possible by your financial contributions and a \$90,000 grant for this fiscal year by the Women's Program at Secretary of State. But we need interdependency, not dependency - that is, strength at the centre and at the local level. A high profile Ottawa presence is soon detected as a "puff-ball" if it is not being reproduced at the community level. We've got to keep hammering away at the local level, citing individual personal concerns which you our members live with daily.



We've been successful in putting daycare on the political agenda. We've also successfully pinpointed the underlying policy problems with the current approach to daycare. Now, during the next year or so, we must focus on the solutions to the daycare crisis.

I firmly believe that all possible energy in Canada's daycare community should now be focused on obtaining new daycare policy. We must all clarify our values in respect to daycare. There are, as we all know, some people who say the daycare community is not ready for policy... not ready for politics... not ready for advocacy. This, I sincerely believe, is patronizing and self-defeating. We have the talent, experience and ideas. And we shouldn't forget - the politics are here. There will be a Parliamentary Task Force. It's what we all wanted. There will be a great deal of debate about daycare. And we need to assist people to knowledgeably and confidently participate in the debate, not avoid it. If we don't, all of us - and our children - will be forced to live with the costs for years.

Many of you will have seen a questionnaire and poster circulated by Sandra Griffin, Co-ordinator of the proposed Canadian Child Day Care Federation. The Federation is seeking an indication of the need and support for expanded information services for the daycare community. If this survey, funded by a \$47,000 grant from Health and Welfare, demonstrates broad support for these services, the provisional executive hopes to secure new funding from Health and Welfare to sustain the operations of a broadly-based Canada-wide Federation.

We have enjoyed open communication and mutual respect with the Federation since its inception, and were aware in the fall of their plans for a cross-country survey and their long-term goal of building a new service-oriented organization.

At the time, we felt there would be a good deal of overlap between the two groups, and that a single national organization would most effectively enrich and expand child care services in Canada. We ourselves were planning expanded information services for you, our members, and felt that successful advocacy would depend on our ability to offer such resources. We also felt that, with a Parliamentary Task Force beginning soon, the Federation would inevitably be drawn into policy discussions with governments. Another important concern was that resources for national groups are limited, and we would be in competition for scarce funds.

When we discussed this issue in our October Executive meeting, however, we decided to devote our immediate energies to planning for the Parliamentary Task Force and continuing to build the CDCAA. This we have done.

Now we are re-examining our relationship with the Federation. It is clear that the daycare movement has matured tremen-

dously in the last two years. The CDCAA has demonstrated a strength and vigour that have energized us all; we have successfully opened our doors to all members of the daycare community, and have become an articulate mainstream voice for child care services. The idea of a Federation has evolved, and the expertise and commitment of Sandra Griffin and her colleagues are most welcome. And we feel there is room for a fresh and beneficial look at this issue.

In the months to come, we will continue a dialogue with members of the Canadian Child Day Care Federation, to develop ways of meeting the concerns we and our members have expressed, the concern that two national organizations would be counter-productive to all our purposes. At the same time, we will be preparing for the Parliamentary Task Force.

We are now preparing a discussion paper on daycare policy. After consultation and achieving a consensus, it will, we anticipate, clearly show governments what we need and want. Our objective is to show the component parts of a comprehensive childcare and parent support policy. The legislative and funding mechanisms for achieving this goal will be outlined.

Our proposal will rest upon a foundation of consensus already achieved within our Association.

With regard to what kind of daycare system is needed in Canada, we want: one premised on the necessity of high quality licensed care... one premised on the belief that the quality of a child's care should not be determined by parental income... one premised on real accountability and parent-daycare provider interaction... one premised on a non-commercial orientation to human services... and one premised on decent wages and salaries for providers.

With regard to the context of parent support policy daycare should fall within, we see the need for workplace changes - such as improved maternity and paternity benefits, paid time to care for sick children, and childcare leaves - plus a much expanded appreciation of the stresses placed on families who want to raise happy, healthy children and meet their social and economic needs, whether they work outside the home, or have the opportunity and choose to stay at home.

These are thought-provoking issues. Think about them. Consider our immediate and long-term needs as a society.

Daycare has emerged as a major issue at a time of economic stagnation and hardship. Some economists and politicians will be putting forth narrow economic or efficiency arguments. I believe our society must - and can - afford high quality universal daycare. Citizens want it. We simply cannot afford - in social and economic terms - not to provide it. A society that cannot provide essential support services for children is a morally bankrupt society.

In conclusion, I want to say that I've been involved in daycare advocacy for eight

years because I believe Canadians have the capacity and desire to create good daycare. Canadians are proud, for example, of our efforts in the field of health care. Under today's conditions of life, high quality daycare is no less important than good health care. Let's push ourselves a little to make the 1980's the decade when we win enlightened daycare policy. We can do it.

Judy Martin
CDCAA Chairperson

Daycare in the news

Daycare has become a newsmaker.

Increased needs, greater public concern and confident child care advocates have helped push daycare into the limelight.

The headlines tell the story.

Daycare a major issue in campaign, says association... Daycare a national concern... Society pays price of poor child care... Daycare group shows the right stuff... Task force set up to probe problems with daycare... Daycare no longer a welfare service... Daycare critical issue for farm wives... Group's goal is high quality child care... Debate historic benchmark for women... Workers win fight against daycare cutbacks... Gallup polls show attitudes changing toward working moms... The crisis in daycare... New trend in daycare is welcomed.

This is a sampling of headlines from waves of news coverage which began last Spring. And for each successive gush of newsprint, the CDCAA was involved, offering background analysis, statistics and informed comments.

May 1984 saw extensive national press coverage of our parliament hill lobby and national press conference, including a daycare slot on the CBC Journal, an appearance by Judith Martin on Canada A.M., and a 10-minute in-depth report on the CBC national radio program, The House. Friends in the media complimented the press kit and fact sheets we produced.

Also during May, the Niagara-on-the-Lake daycare discussion by provincial ministers responsible for the status of women and the subsequent announcement of a federal ministerial task force on child care created considerable news copy.

June and July saw reports of a major Ontario study linking high accident and fatality rates for rural children to a lack of daycare for farm families.

In July and August daycare was a prominent issue candidates were asked to address in the federal election campaign. This was a historic first for daycare. The CDCAA election kit was distributed across the country. This promoted front-page stories in many dailies, and climaxed in August with the leaders' debate on women's issues, which contained a discussion of daycare. The CDCAA sponsored press conferences where we released the results of our all-party questionnaire. We hammered home the need for new direct dollars, not regressive tax

measures which will only forestall the creation of an affordable, accessible, stable daycare system.

After the election, press attention turned to the Task Force on Child Care, with compassionate stories of suffering caused by a lack of child care support in the north, when the Task Force visited Frobisher Bay, and headlines expressing disappointment in Newfoundland, when the Task Force was forced to cancel their visit there.

Child care conferences in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia were reported in October.

In November, the announcement of a parliamentary task force on child care in the Speech from the Throne was hailed as good news by the CDCAA in the Globe and Mail, but CDCAA Chairperson Judith Martin joined with leaders of women's groups in expressing disappointment at the new government's failure to make funding commitments now.

By the end of 1984, the press was tuned in to daycare as never before, with prominent writers in national and local papers writing sympathetic articles and seeking out the views of the CDCAA.

Federal lobby acclaimed success

Three busy days were spent in Ottawa last May by the new CDCAA Steering Committee.

Beginning with a reception and warm welcome from Mayor Marion Dewar and the Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association, and ending with a televised press conference on Parliament Hill, the central public activity was a highly acclaimed lobby of all three federal parties.

Here's what transpired at this historic event.

In separate one-hour meetings with each party caucus, we highlighted the problems now facing daycare and presented our proposals for immediate government action.

Our presentation was carefully planned: Steering Committee members Larry Katz and Micheline Ferron co-chaired the meeting, introduced our group and proposed a format for discussion; CDCAA Chairperson Judith Martin and Executive member Gaétane Morissette then presented an overview of daycare needs in English and French, emphasized our request for enlightened federal initiatives, and summarized our proposals; next, six steering committee members, representing all regions and a variety of perspectives (parent, daycare provider, administrator, researcher, etc.), described their personal experiences and frustrations; and finally we returned to our proposals and provided an opportunity for a constructive dialogue.

There were twelve Progressive Conservative members, thirteen New Democratic Party members and four Liberals in attendance. All three parties acknowledged that daycare should no longer be

approached as a welfare issue, and all recognized a need for federal initiatives. Otherwise, the responses varied.

The Progressive Conservatives were supportive of our proposal for a Parliamentary Task Force, but would make no commitment for new funding. Flora McDonald indicated daycare was a societal issue, not a welfare issue. While one Tory MP suggested that child care costs should be fully tax deductible, McDonald said that neither CAP nor tax deductions represent the way we should go into the future.

The NDP was very supportive of our proposal for a Parliamentary Task Force and our call for a Child Care Financing Program which would immediately put 300 million new dollars into daycare. Mr. Broadbent stressed that his party considers daycare a universal right, analogous to medicare and education. He emphasized the NDP would be raising child care as an electoral issue.

The Liberal members were also supportive of a Task Force. Mr. MacGuigan, however, indicated a reluctance to make funding commitments prior to this study. Liberal members also referred to potential jurisdictional problems with the provinces. We successfully showed that our proposals were formulated in accordance with co-operative federalism in order to avoid this problem.

This first federal lobby was successful in establishing the CDCAA as a united, organized and compassionate voice for daycare. It was the first step in our fight to make daycare a major issue in the federal election which followed.

Daycare election issue

Daycare has now been firmly placed on the social and political agenda of the country. In part this can be explained by our successful election strategy. For the first time, child care needs were a federal election issue.

The CDCAA election campaign contained a number of activities:

- A daycare questionnaire was delivered to the national offices of the political parties. The responses were distributed to all Steering Committee members for use in their provinces and territories. The responses, questions, as well as adaptations of the questions based on particular regional concerns, were then used to approach local candidates.
- A CDCAA election kit was distributed to all association members. It included a series of fact sheets, the Association's proposals for government action, and suggestions for local activities such as all-candidate meetings, phone campaigns, and using the media to reach a wider audience.
- A series of CDCAA press conferences were used to publicize the results of the questionnaire and our concerns. Press conferences were organized in Ottawa and in Saskatoon following the leaders'

debate sponsored by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

- Across the country CDCAA members worked with regional daycare advocacy groups organizing or attending all-candidate debates, visiting constituency offices and broadening the base of support for vastly expanded and improved child care services. The historic debate organized on women's issues certainly helped to expose that daycare is an issue whose time has come.

The CDCAA will continue to press all parties to make the 1980s the decade when Canada finally adopts enlightened and caring child care policies.

Working on the hill

The CDCAA has become the acknowledged voice for daycare on the hill.

It started quietly, as we first acquainted ourselves with the corridors of power through meetings with ministers, government departments and the opposition parties.

Then came our highly publicized May, 1984 steering committee lobby of all three political parties.

And since then, there's been no turning back.

We're now credited with the creation of the Ministerial Task Force on Child Care. Its findings will soon be released. Last September, we informed Walter McLean, the new Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, that this Task Force had our continuing support and should be viewed as an essential prelude to our proposed Parliamentary Task Force. On December 5 we had a productive two and one-half hour consultation with the Ministerial Task Force.

Following November's Speech from the Throne, we recommended a strong mandate for the Parliamentary Task Force to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (see article, Mandating the Task Force). We urged public hearings in every province and territory, plus adequate time and resources for comprehensive recommendations. Numbers of CDCAA support groups, for example the Canadian Council on Children and Youth, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Teachers' Federation and the National Union of Provincial Government Employees joined this lobby.

The Parliamentary Task Force, we now know, is being planned under the direction of the Honourable Jake Epp, Minister of Health and Welfare. As we go to press, the timing of the Task Force remains unknown. Public hearings could occur as early as this Spring. So there's a lot of work to be done quickly. This has got to be approached as a high priority by all advocates.

Whatever happens in the year to come, the CDCAA will maintain an active presence on the hill... advocating better daycare at every opportunity... maximizing the possibilities afforded by the Parliamentary Task Force... and staying on top of events as they unfold.

Royal Commission calls for universal childcare

"Childcare is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Unless government policy responds to this urgency, we put women, children, and the economy of the future at risk."

So saying, the Royal Commission on Equality in Employment headed by Judge Rosalie Abella strongly recommended that Canada move toward a universally accessible, non-compulsory childcare system.

The full report by this Commission which criss-crossed the country is 393 pages long, and one of its six chapters addresses the daycare crisis. "The urgency and unanimity of the submissions made by women in all groups on this issue (childcare), the report states, "impel this commission to give it special attention."

The report documents that "Canada lags behind many other Western industrialized nations in its childcare provisions." And it goes to the heart of the problem by making it known that "ignoring the paucity of childcare ignores the real beneficiaries of childcare - children."

Canadians are told "it is time to set aside the emotional tangents of this issue and confront it directly... women are not only inhibited from working by the absence of this support system but the quality of their participation is impaired. Childcare is the ramp that provides equal access to the workforce for mothers."

Although specific funding mechanisms for achieving a universally accessible system are not recommended (because a federal task force on childcare is now examining federal-provincial cost-sharing arrangements), The Royal Commission does say that federal legislation devised on the basis of consultation with the provinces and territories needs to be enacted.

Compelling arguments for federal leadership and government funding are woven into the text of the report.

"Many of the arguments made today against the introduction of universally accessible, quality childcare are identical to those made in the nineteenth century before universally accessible public school education was introduced," the report notes. For example, "the threat to the privacy of the parents, the danger to the emotional stability of children... the peril to the sanctity and cohesiveness of the family, and the enormous expenses were all proffered as arguments against free public school education."

We have come to realize, the report then comments, that our public education system represents a fruitful relationship between governments and parents, with children benefitting from this partnership. Parents are still primary, public schools are an indispensable support system.

"Childcare is a logical extension of this philosophy", the Royal Commission suggests.

Advisory Council study published

A major 114-page study called "Day Care in Canada: A Background Paper" has been published by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Released in August 1984, and researched for the Advisory Council by Laura Johnson and Norma McCormick, the report documents that "for at least a decade the formal day care system in Canada has not kept up with the current high demand for services and that, as currently organized, it is unable to respond adequately."

The Advisory Council says new legislative mechanisms are needed to create a quality day care system which should be affordable, accessible, accountable and comprehensive.

In this regard, the report notes that "innovative proposals for the funding of day care have recently been brought forward by the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association."

Extensive documentation is provided placing in relief the growing gap between day care demand and supply.

A review of cross-country surveys demonstrates that "parents today are most interested in formal, supervised day care arrangements for their children." A 1982 Advisory Council survey is quoted which revealed that most women feel we need more day care facilities, and this opinion was "shared equally by women with and without children, regardless of whether they were working outside the home."

A section on daycare employees shows the disparity between high expectations placed on daycare workers and their low wages is repeated from province to province. The daycare workers, the document states, are subsidizing the formal daycare system, and this contributes to low staff morale and high turnover, which in turn adversely affect the quality of care.

An analysis of daycare costs documents what all too many Canadians already know--the great majority of average income parents cannot afford daycare.

And a review of daycare standards is provided to highlight the need for a superior system of standards, with effective enforcement mechanisms, to ensure our children receive the best care available.

This backgrounder was printed originally in a limited edition; the CDCAA has written to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women to request a second printing. A few English and French copies are still available from the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Box 1541, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5R5.

Cross country update

What's happening in the regions?

The Day Care Advocate will answer this question in a regular feature article,

cross country update. This is our first attempt, so please excuse obvious gaps... and make sure there are none next time. Send us news from your province or territory.

NEWFOUNDLAND -- There are two new thriving daycare groups here: The Day Care Advocates Committee in St. John's, and Citizens' Action Child Care in Corner Brook. If you want to participate, please contact CDCAA steering committee members Lynette Pike in St. John's, or Freida Hjartarson-Bhattacharya in Corner Brook.

—Now work is beginning on a province-wide daycare association. An \$11,000. grant from the regional office of the Women's Programme, Secretary of State, will allow Dorothy Robbins to begin this exciting process.

—During December the Citizens Action Child Care Committee hosted Child Care Awareness Week in Corner Brook. Featured were fun and group activities for families and children, visits to daycare centres, community presentations at a public forum, and a seminar on quality childcare.

—Daycare advocates have been pressing the provincial government to help resolve the daycare crisis. In a December 12, 1984 letter, Premier Brian Peckford writes: "Please be assured that daycare is an important item, both federally and provincially, and that we intend to give full airing to the issue in order to make certain policy changes of benefit to society's new needs."

NOVA SCOTIA -- Cape Breton, Nova Scotia was the site of an October Conference on children in crisis which featured discussion of daycare and other services needed to address community needs. CDCAA steering committee members Sharon Irwin and Ken Pierce were in attendance. The weekend agenda concluded with submissions by community organizations to the Federal Task Force on Child Care.

—The Fall executive meeting of the CDCAA was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia and included a community outreach event at the YWCA on Barrington Street. Many thanks to the local daycare community for the support and hospitality extended to us.

NEW BRUNSWICK -- The introduction of new provincial daycare regulations are causing a stir in New Brunswick. Provincial daycare providers are caught in an untenable situation -- improvements in quality cost money and yet the funding required is not being provided. They fear parents will be forced to seek unlicensed care if something isn't done. The New Brunswick Day Care Association has mounted a campaign for a direct provincial grant to all centres. Failing this, the Association says the new regulations should be delayed.

Laura Smith, CDCAA steering committee member, has helped organize a lobby of provincial politicians. They're being asked to support a direct grant.

To date, the provincial government has merely increased the maximum subsidy level from \$8.50 to \$11.00 per day. Families earning more than \$13,000. per year are not eligible. And so fee-paying parents, the

majority of users, are confronted by increased costs they cannot afford.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND -- CDCAA executive Member Ken Pierce reports that the province's Child Care Facilities Board, which licences daycare centres for the government, has, following meetings with community groups and daycare providers, prepared a proposal outlining a certification process for childcare workers. The proposal has been presented to Cabinet, but no action has been taken to date by the government. Daycare advocates and women's groups have been writing the government and calling for immediate action on the proposal.

QUEBEC -- The provincial government published a major discussion paper in October called "For Quebec Families". This "green paper" presents an overview of family life in Quebec and proposes that an integrated approach, following community consultation, should be used for developing policies which impact on families. Childcare services are viewed as essential, and the document states "that day care, together with parental leave and the adaptation of work schedules to parental responsibilities, is a resource particularly well suited to government support for parents."

"Government assistance for child day care has increased considerably in past years," according to the Green Paper. "However, the financial position of child care centres remains precarious, for it is tied to the parents' capacity to pay... (and) further support must be considered."

The provincial government states "the Office des services de garde aims to create 5,000 new places per year" since only 12 percent of Québec children now attend recognized daycare centres.

ONTARIO -- Queen's Park, Ontario's Parliament building in Toronto, was the scene of a massive lobby of three parties by the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care last Spring. Part of a weekend conference which brought together advocates from across the province, the lobby included a one-hour meeting with the provincial cabinet.

—This September, public hearings on daycare were held across Ontario.

Hundreds of submissions were presented to the Provincial Legislature's Standing Committee on Social Development which travelled to receive community input on the province's new Day Nurseries' Act. While groups welcomed the new standards, the funding crisis confronting daycare in Ontario (high costs, limited spaces, poor wages, etc.) was the issue which drew the most attention. As we go to press, the recommendations of the Standing Committee have yet to be released.

—The Ontario Ministry of Education is conducting a study focusing on school programs for children four to eight. The Ministry says it's adopting a "holistic view of childhood, and recognizing that education is only one aspect of the multifaceted support system which families and young children require."

"Changes in family structures and the absence of the traditional extended family

have accelerated the need and demand for a wider range of support services for families and young children," notes Fran Poleschuk, the project director.

Recommendations will be presented by the project team to the Minister of Education this Spring. The extension of school services beginning at three years of age may be considered.

-CDCAA Co-ordinator Lynne Westlake participated in a one-day consultation session on childcare in Ottawa organized by the Social Affairs Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

-Ontario CDCAA Executive members Jane Bertrand and Larry Katz emerged from a one-hour meeting in Toronto in December with Robert Welch, Deputy Premier Ontario and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, saying the frank face-to-face discussion provided an opportunity to outline the government initiatives needed to develop comprehensive and co-ordinated quality child care support services.

"Mr. Welch's acknowledgement that we have entered a new era and that daycare is no longer merely a welfare issue affecting the needy and low income Canadians is welcome news," said Larry Katz.

The Association told Welch it would be a mistake to confuse the creation of a high-quality child care system with tax initiatives used to redistribute income and provide compensation for families with children.

"The progressive redistribution of income is a laudible and essential goal, said Jane Bertrand, "but this won't create a stable, reliable child care system."

MANITOBA -- The annual conference of the Manitoba Child Care Association was well attended and considered a great success. Keynote speakers at the banquet were Muriel Smith, Manitoba Minister of Community Services, and Larry Katz, CDCAA Executive member from Ottawa. Muriel Smith used the occasion to publicly announce a new provincially funded child care staff training program which will be offered through the Manitoba Child Care Association. No wages will be lost during upgrading and funding will be provided for substitute replacement while employees attend the training programs.

-The province of Manitoba has submitted a working draft for a Canada Day Care and Family Support Services Act to Jake Epp, the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In a letter accompanying the 4-page Act, Muriel Smith, Manitoba Minister of Community Services, states that "for many families in Canada the availability, quality, and cost of day care services has become a daily crisis. Our governments share a responsibility to see that these concerns are addressed as soon as possible."

The Manitoba proposal calls for a basic 50/50 cost-sharing of daycare expenses between the two levels of government, with added federal sharing for the poorer provinces. In addition the Act provides for a capital cost fund (similar to the National Health Resources Fund which laid the basis for our Medicare system) and a research

and evaluation fund (to access child care needs during the planned expansion of the system). The goal is to have within 10 years daycare services for at least 50 per cent of children of parents who are out of the home because of employment, education, medical or rehabilitative needs. Auxiliary family support services are covered as well.

Clause 12 of the Act stipulates an effective date of January 1, 1986.

SASKATCHEWAN -- "Woefully inadequate and behind the times" were the words used by advocates here to describe a government report on daycare prepared for social services Minister Gordon Dirks. The study, called the Zazelunchuk report in Saskatchewan, recommended the province fund profit daycare, thus reversing a ban on funding introduced in 1975.

Public forums sponsored by coalitions of daycare advocacy groups, women's organizations, trade unions, and other community organizations were organized in Regina and Saskatoon. Speakers included Judith Martin, CDCAA Chairperson, Gail Stevens, President of Action Child Care, Palma Anderson, President of the Saskatchewan Action Committee, Status of Women, Jeff Rose, CUPE National President, Dawn Paterson, a parent and daycare board member, Julie Mathien, Daycare consultant with the Toronto School Board, and Larry Katz, CDCAA Executive Member.

A major victory was won when Gordon Dirks announced at a Prince Albert day care conference that his government will not fund profit daycare, and would provide an additional \$500,000. in grants for public daycare programs.

"Our Children/Quality Care" was the name given to a conference on childcare held in Prince Albert in October. The conference was attended by over 400 people, and included sessions on programing, policy and advocacy. Resolutions were adopted on training, standards, family daycare, and provincial and federal policy. For more information write: Lynda Bliss, Conference Co-ordinator, 68 - 11th Street West, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, S6V 3A9.

ALBERTA -- CDCAA Executive Member Myreene Harvey, Director of Social Services in Fort McMurray, has launched an appeal to individuals and groups in Alberta to broaden support for the CDCAA and develop more intense daycare advocacy work in the province. Daycare advocates are also seeking funds to form a province-wide advocacy coalition.

BRITISH COLUMBIA -- For information and referrals regarding daycare services in the Vancouver area, a new service called "Information Day Care" has been created. Peter Ashmore answers the phone at 604-736-3661. Or you can visit at Suite 105, 1956 West Broadway, Vancouver, V6J 1Z2.

-The B.C. Daycare Action Coalition is the recipient of a \$80,000. Canada Works grant. This project will employ 6 people and establish a resource centre offering a variety of services to daycare programs in Vancouver. For more information contact: Penny Coates, B.C. Daycare Action Coalition, P.O. Box 3932, VMP0, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3Z4.

YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES --

Unmet needs and the interest in daycare were systematically documented when the Federal Task Force on Child Care visited Frobisher Bay in September.

In spite of the short advance notice given and the long travel distances, the Task Force was presented with briefs from all across the N.W.T., including an audiotape prepared by concerned parents from Rankin Inlet who were unable to travel to Frobisher Bay.

The pressing need for early childhood education training (no courses are readily available), and the fact that twelve and thirteen year old girls are obliged to leave school (to look after younger siblings because of a lack of daycare) were documented.

Daycare advocates are pressing the N.W.T. government to develop daycare standards. This is the only region in the country where there are no licensing regulations or daycare standards. These changes are required to gain access to federal funding.

Mandating the parliamentary task force

Getting a parliamentary task force on child care represents a big victory for the CDCAA and day care advocates across the country.

In a letter mailed to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on November 9, 1984, CDCAA Chairperson Judith Martin warmly welcomed the announcement in the Throne Speech of a parliamentary task force on the future of child care in Canada. The CDCAA also respectfully requested a meeting with the Prime Minister and his ministers to discuss our proposed mandate for the task force.

Below, for your information, we reproduce the preamble and terms of reference we submitted to the government.

PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE ON CHILD CARE

PROPOSED PREAMBLE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE SUBMITTED BY THE CANADIAN DAY CARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE:

1. For more than a decade various individuals, groups and government commissions have called for a vastly expanded and improved public child care support system.
2. The social needs and family patterns of our society have changed rapidly and dramatically. For example, more mothers of young children now work for a wage or salary than are staying home full-time, and their numbers are increasing yearly. The need for a modern, comprehensive family support system grows more compelling with each passing day.
3. The federal government now provides financial support for child care through three programs: The Canada Assistance

Plan (CAP), the child care tax-deduction, and subsidies for those taking Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) training programs.

4. Since 1965 the federal government has funded child care as a social assistance or welfare program under CAP. By cost-sharing user-fee subsidies for low-income Canadians with the provinces, day care has been entrenched as a user-fee welfare program. The child care deduction and CEIC subsidies operate within this framework.
5. A broad spectrum of Canadians have suggested that high quality, equally accessible, comprehensive, stable child care support programs cannot be created or sustained through a dependence on user-fees or the welfare model.
6. Concern has been expressed with various aspects of our child care support system. Some examples include the lack of sufficient funding, uneven quality of care, lack of accessibility, prohibitive parental fees, inadequate compensation for child care providers, and service instability. As well, the need for improved parental leave rights for working parents has been voiced.
7. A federal ministerial task force has now examined and assessed the need for child care services and paid parental leave in Canada, as well as the adequacy of the current system in meeting these needs.
8. We now need legislative and funding recommendations for achieving universally accessible, comprehensive, high quality, publicly funded child care services. The recommendations should address the multifaceted issue that a majority of Canadians now face - that is how should a modern society, such as ours, support (in funding, policy and program terms) a commitment to sexual equality, economic well-being and the raising of healthy, happy children. The recommendations should be placed within the context of co-operative federalism.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Consider the extent to which Canada's public, licenced child care services are meeting the needs of children, parents and child care providers.
2. Examine the extent to which the principles of reasonable and equal access, comprehensive coverage, reasonable compensation, high quality, affordability, effective public administration, proper training and service stability are being achieved through existing funding and legislative mechanisms.
3. Examine existing parental leave rights and other work-related factors to determine if they adequately meet the needs of Canadian families.
4. Submit administrative and legislative recommendations for achieving government funded, universally accessible, comprehensive, high quality child care support services.
5. Submit recommendations for legislative revisions required to afford necessary and improved parental rights for working parents.

6. The Parliamentary Task Force on Child Care shall:

- be composed of nine (9) members;
- have the power to retain the services of expert, technical and clerical staff as may be deemed necessary;
- hold public hearings in each province and territory and receive views and representations from interested groups and individuals across Canada. These public hearings shall take place during the months of April and May, 1985, and when deemed necessary, the required staff shall accompany the Task Force;
- submit its final report to the House no later than September 15, 1985. The said report shall be made public.

Consulting our members

The CDCAA will soon begin a consultation process with our members and affiliated groups to establish a springboard for the united public responses required for the parliamentary task force on child care.

Public hearings could begin as early as this Spring. And we need to be properly prepared.

A draft paper detailing the component parts of a comprehensive daycare policy is now being finalized by a CDCAA executive sub-committee. It was discussed at last month's executive meeting. The executive also began planning a process for consulting with our members. We want to ensure that the proposals we submit to the parliamentary task force reflect your input and wishes. This, we hope, will create the foundation for hundreds of thoughtful submissions to the parliamentary task force across the country.

Our strength comes from constructive dialogue, achieving consensus, and then speaking with conviction and passion.

We'll be in touch soon. Please participate.

Our new home

The CDCAA moved into its new home at 323 Chapel Street in Ottawa last summer. We want you to think of it as your home too.

We share spacious and airy rooms with the National Association of Women and the Law in Kildare House, a huge old red brick home converted into offices. Also located here is the Canadian Council on Children and Youth (CCCY), which administers the building. The CCCY has been helpful and supportive, graciously making room for us in this ideal setting. Because numbers of national groups, many of them working on behalf of children, have offices in Kildare House, it's the perfect environment for sharing resources and brain-storming over common concerns.

Two new CDCAA staff members are hard at work in our Ottawa office: Danièle Lamer-Sheth, our Office Manager, and Lynne Westlake, CDCAA Co-ordinator.

Danièle comes to us with a deep and loving commitment to children, as well as a range of strong office skills and a personable and professional approach to problem solving. As the fluently bilingual staff member in our office, she has already improved our bilingual capacity considerably. Danièle's biggest frustration with the job, she says, is that the children we serve are too far away!

Lynne has been involved with the CDCAA since our birth. She was elected at the Winnipeg conference to serve on our first interim steering committee. With the exception of a few years used to study social work, Lynne has worked in daycare in Ottawa for the past ten years. Her own two daughters, now in their teens, are graduates of a variety of forms of daycare.

Daycare research network formed

Below we reproduce excerpts from an article prepared by Dr. Alan Pence of the School of Child Care, University of Victoria:

Research is one of the foundation stones necessary for the creation of a revitalized structure of child caregiving in Canada. The foundation must also include strong elements of public awareness, professional development and governmental commitment.

Today, daycare has the opportunity to open a new chapter in its history. Through a changing demography of caregiving needs, through the long-term efforts of those working locally, provincially and nationally on behalf of better day care, and through the effective lobbying and public awareness activities of the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, members of the day care community have a new opportunity, in a more receptive environment, to create a strong foundation for the future of child care in Canada.

Research, as one of the blocks within this emerging foundation, has a responsibility to communicate with the broader daycare community.

As one aspect of an effort to enhance communication a group of researchers from across the country met in Vancouver approximately a year ago to discuss national priorities in day care research. Two major research needs emerged from that meeting:

- the need for a large scale, cross-provincial survey examining factors influencing the use of, satisfaction with and desirability of various caregiving options in Canada.
- the need to facilitate the collection and dissemination of Canadian day care research.

Both of these objectives are being pursued by members of the original group, and other researchers have been invited and

encouraged to participate in the activities of the National Day Care Research Network.

For further information on the Research Network, contact Dr. Alan Pence, School of Child Care, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, V8W 2Y2

Annotated bibliographies - a new membership service

A desire to further expand membership services was unanimously endorsed at the October, 1984 CDCAA Executive meeting in Halifax. A first step will be taken in our next fiscal year when we create a clearing house to begin distributing bibliographies which list and summarize Canadian and international resource materials on various daycare-related subjects.

Our work on this information sharing project, which, we anticipate, will be conducted in co-operation with supporting institutions and researchers, and will utilize computer-based reference retrieval systems, shall be guided by requests for background source material which routinely reach our office. Since research, we believe, should be directed by the needs of ordinary people, emphasis will be placed on practical questions and problems now confronting Canadian families, childcare providers, and daycare advocates.

There is an extensive and fairly comprehensive body of popular and technical literature available on daycare. Our objective is to make it accessible to a broader audience.

A second objective of this new service is to help promote research which facilitates the creation of the family support services parents need now. We are witnessing a welcome development in Canada - an increased number of researchers examining the daycare issue. This research, we believe, should help increase our understanding and help lay the foundation for reforms which promote the public interest. Our bibliographies will therefore be organized around subjects and questions which we think researchers should be examining

Here are a few questions we're already considering. Suggestions from you would be greatly appreciated.

- What are the essential factors needed to create a healthy, enjoyable, loving and secure environment for children? What planned activities should be integrated into programs to promote the physical, intellectual and emotional development of children, while taking into consideration differences in age, paces of growth, personal needs and particular cultural and socio-economic backgrounds of families?
- What funding, legislative, jurisdictional and administrative mechanisms are needed to create comprehensive, efficient, high quality child care services in Canada? How do we ensure the system is reliable, stable, and universally accessible to all

families in need, regardless of income, place of residence, or ethnic, cultural, religious or national background?

- What do parents want from an ideal support community that looks after their children for a few hours a day, or as much as 10 hours a day? What level of payment can they afford, if any? Should there be any user fee, or should the costs be borne through government taxes and revenues?
- What would be reasonable wage and salary levels, conditions of work, welfare benefits, and career development opportunities for daycare employees, so that individual economic and social needs are satisfied and that in turn employee morale remains high and the nurturing of children remains the primary focus of concern?
- What lessons can be drawn from our experience with daycare and other public services to help us ensure we create a childcare system which integrates parental-provider participation and interaction, and makes the services accountable to parents, the community and society in general?
- What training should be offered, or indeed made obligatory, for employees and administrators in the childcare field? Where and what kind of training opportunities should be offered?

We're sure you have other questions you would like examined. Please send us your suggestions.

Write on!

The contribution of the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association to the development of public policy is most welcome, and I can assure you that your proposed terms of reference for the Parliamentary Task Force will be given serious consideration.

Thank you for your continued interest in this area and for your ongoing work on behalf of families.

Walter McLean

Minister Responsible for Status of Women

Thank you for the special election kit. I am enclosing a donation of \$10. towards your efforts. I am sorry it is not more, but I am unemployed at the moment.

The kit is very informative and well-done. I will try to use the information and suggested questions as best possible.

Sharon Pope

Toronto, Nfld

I'm very impressed with the work the CDCAA is doing on behalf of all Canadian children. Your organization is providing the ground work for the childcare policy of the future!

Best wishes for continued success.

Maude Barlow

Women's rights advocate
Ottawa, Ontario

"We join with parents, child care providers, early childhood educators, provincial and territorial day care coalitions, and the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association in calling for a universally accessible, non-compulsory, directly government funded, not-for-profit, high quality child care system. We also see the absolute need for complementary legislation which would oblige employers to provide workers with essential parental rights.

We've already waited too long for government leadership. Child care support is not a new phenomenon in Canada. Indeed the first daycare centres were established in the mid 1800's. But when we review the history of child care it becomes strikingly clear the need for child care support has never been adequately met."

Excerpt from a submission to the federal Task Force on Child Care by the Canadian Labour Congress

I am pleased to commend and extend my thanks to the members of the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, for their on-going commitment and dedication to the preservation of quality childcare services for all Canadians.

I believe strongly that without quality childcare, at affordable rates making the services accessible to all, women cannot be equal economic partners in our society. When one considers how few families are currently of the traditional type, with one parent in the workforce and one at home full-time, the barriers to equality become clearer.

While these struggles are not easily won, and the victories are few and far between, the persistence of individuals like those in the Association is critical to the long-term progress that must be made.

Again, my thanks for the work and the support for women, and my best wishes for on-going success.

Marion Dewar
Mayor of Ottawa

Thank you for all you have done for us this past year. You have been great and just what the day care world has needed.

Mab Oloman
Director, Child Care
University of British Columbia
Child Care Services

local daycare groups and professional associations, women's groups, labour, the academic community, as well as parents and daycare providers.

Please use the following list of steering committee members. All of them welcome the opportunity to speak to groups in their respective areas. They represent the vital link between regional and federal level advocacy.

Steering committee

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Your new steering committee

We've done it!

For the first time we have a Canada-wide daycare organization with a directly-elected representative steering committee. Each province and territory chose two members for a two year term.

The group is composed of individuals from urban and rural settings, French and English Canada, and with years of experience in various daycare services. They are drawn from a broad constituency, including

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CANADIAN DAY CARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA PROMOTION DES SERVICES DE GARDE A L'ENFANCE

It's time to give our children the care and the opportunities that they deserve!

Parents across the country want affordable, accessible, high quality day care ... NOW!

And yet day care is in a state of paralysis, if not serious crisis.

The overall problem is a lack of financial commitment to the service on the part of governments.

The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association was formed to address this problem.

The Association arose from the 2nd Canadian Day Care Conference held in Winnipeg in September, 1982. Over 700 delegates attended. And now a steering committee and executive representing all provinces and territories have been elected.

It's the first time a united Canadian voice for day care has been created.

The primary goal of the Association is an expanded and improved day care service that addresses the needs of children, parents and day care providers. Emphasis is placed on high quality care and evolving toward a comprehensive public day care service.

It's an exciting prospect for the future that together we can work toward proper government funding and an improved, enriched setting for our children.

Join the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association

\$3 ☐	\$12 ☐	\$20 ☐	☐
Individual Member	Day Care Centre	Local Group	Contribution

Please send more
information in:

- ☐ English
☐ French

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Clip and mail to:

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323 CHAPEL ST.
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