



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IS BC STANDING UP FOR CHILD CARE?

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For Immediate Release

(Vancouver) - Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC), the professional association for licensed practitioners working in child care facilities in BC, is questioning the provincial government's commitment to investing in BC children and families.

ECEBC is very concerned about the recent federal announcement regarding the pending cancellation of the Federal/Provincial Child Care Agreements. When these Agreements were signed, Gordon Campbell spoke proudly of BC's commitment to move forward on child care.

If the new federal Conservative party proceeds with its proposal to cancel the federal/provincial agreement, BC will lose close to \$400 million that can and should be used to make regulated child care more affordable and available. Given the harm that could result - swift and direct action on behalf of BC's children and families is needed.

On the CBC radio show in the interior today Linda Reid was questioned about BC not putting "their case" forward as Ontario and Quebec have. Her response that Quebec and Ontario are further along in the process than BC, is not the issue. "ECEBC along with many other advocates participated in provincial consultations last November, consultations that were to help formulate a plan for BC. We know that the messages in these consultations have been consistent and that if BC acted on the recommendations we would be further along than Linda Reid indicates," says President Diane Tannahill "The fact that BC has not reported out the results of these consultations is frustrating. We are wasting time," says President Elect Toni Hoyland.

ECEBC is demanding the Provincial Government fight for the federal funding that will support the Quality, Universal, Accessible, Developmental child care system they committed to when signing the agreement. The children and families in BC recognize the commitment the Government made and have much to lose if this agreement is dismantled. The Provincial Government must let Stephen Harper know the importance this agreement has for the children and families of BC. "The time to fight for what we know is needed, is now," says President Elect Toni Hoyland.

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