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To BCGEU stewards and Component 3 members
Please post and distribute
November 16, 2007

Proposed national child care legislation needs your support!

Please email your Member of Parliament today and urge them to vote in favour of national child legislation (Bill C303) at its third reading in Ottawa on Tuesday, November 20, 2007.

Find your Member of Parliament by entering your postal code at this web link:

www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC

Bill C303 will ensure accountability, quality, universality, and accessibility in child care. It will establish each of these as an official condition that must be met before any money can be transferred from the federal government for child care purposes.

Provinces, territories, and aboriginal people's organizations will still be able to determine how to design their own child care programs, but they will receive the federal funding only if they can show their programs guarantee these conditions.

This bill also helps protect non-profit delivery of child care. Any agency, including a for-profit agency, that currently provides early learning or child care services will continue to be eligible for funding. But no new for-profit agencies will be eligible for public funding under Bill C303.

The bill also would create a broad-based Advisory Council of people from government and the early learning and child care community to advise the government on early learning and child care matters."

Conservative MPs need to hear from their constituents that their child care plan isn't working. There are fewer spaces to meet growing demand, parent fees are rising, and early childhood educators are leaving the field for better wages elsewhere.

If your MP is a member of the opposition, they need to know Canadians are counting on their support to make this bill the law.

This request comes via the *Child Care - Let's Make It Happen!* campaign (an initiative of the BCGEU and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC) and the national coalition *Code Blue for Child Care*.

Bill C-303 is a private members' bill put forward by New Democratic Party Members of Parliament Denise Savoie (Victoria) and Olivia Chow (Trinity-Spadina). The bill is supported by all the opposition parties.



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