

Petition to restore full funding to Child Care Resource and Referral services and BC child care programs:

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature Assembled:

The petition of the undersigned constituents of the Province of British Columbia states that:

Whereas the Government of British Columbia has chosen to reduce or eliminate funds made available to Child Care Resource and Referral programs including Westcoast Provincial Services, to the Child Care Operating fund, and to the Child Care Capital Funding program;

Whereas these cuts are causing hardship for BC families – more than 80-percent of whom cannot find affordable, accessible quality child care in their BC communities;

Whereas these cuts are causing difficulties for employers who are experiencing labour issues because working parents cannot find reliable quality child care;

Whereas these cuts limit training opportunities and the professional development and overview of early learning programs and health and safety standards for child care providers; and

Whereas these cuts effectively limit increases to wages and benefits that professional early childhood educators need to continue to work in this field;

Your petitioners respectfully request that the Honourable House:

- Restore full funding to all Child Care Resource And Referral programs including Westcoast Provincial Services;
- Reinststate Child Care Operating funds and Child Care Capital funding with provincial funds, as several other provinces have done;
- Urge the Federal Government to restore the federal-provincial child care funding agreements;
- Release a provincial action plan for a publicly-funded child care system that creates a quality, stable space for every child that is affordable for all, that meets the needs of working and studying families, and that provides caregivers with fair incomes and the respect they deserve.

Dated _____ day of _____, 2007

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