



Working together for a community based, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and accountable.

On June 22, 2010, BC made a decision that will likely erode the quality of before and after school care for Kindergarten and Grade 1 children. Until now, BC Child Care Regulations required 1 staff person for every 10 children with a maximum group size of 20. The new regulations only require 1 staff person for every 12 children with a maximum group of 24.

No fewer than 3 BC ministers, Mary Polak, Minister of Children and Family Development; Ida Chong, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport; and Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education, say this is good news that helps families get ready for full-day kindergarten this September. But, here's the real story:

- The BC government introduced full school day Kindergarten for 5 year olds with NO thought about the impact on child care.
- They did not consult with the child care sector about moving 5 year olds from existing daycare programs to Kindergarten or about the impact on existing Kindercare programs for children in half day Kindergartens.
- They did not reduce class size or integrate early childhood educators into full day Kindergarten to ensure these programs are play-based, as required by their new Kindergarten Program Guide.
- Now BC's Ministry of Children and Family Development uses the Kindergarten ratio of 1 teacher for 22 students to argue that the new child care regulations do not erode quality because "Children ...have greater adult support during before and after school care than they do during their school hours."¹
- While citing evidence about the importance of quality early care, BC's Minister of Education demands that School Boards generate profit to fund K-12 education by raising rents for on-site child care – leading to lost child care spaces and higher parent fees.
- Meanwhile, BC's Minister of Child and Family Development washes her hands claiming it's not government's responsibility to develop or deliver child care.
- As Ontario and PEI implement bold plans to integrate care and learning for young children – **BC's only strategy is to erode child care quality and download under funding of education onto the back of working families.**

Enough is enough!

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC calls on:

- Boards of Education to follow Vancouver's lead and refuse to use child care rents to generate profit at the expense of children and families.
- Families to tell MLAs they need affordable, quality early care and learning programs that meet the needs of children AND the needs of working families.
- The Premier to end the false divide between child care and education and develop an integrated early care and learning plan.

¹ Retrieved from http://www.hls.gov.bc.ca/ccf/child_care.html