

JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICY

I - RESPECT RIGHTS

“The child shall have the right to be cared for by his or her parents.”

“[Governments] shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents to provide appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention.”

From the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 7.1, 5

“Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 26.3

1-Revise legislated definitions of "child care" and "work" to respect human rights and end discrimination; explicitly include parental child care; count this as work as it is socially essential work. (Currently provincial and federal legislation defines child care to exclude parental child care, the most used and preferred type).

2-Ensure that all schools and government-funded organizations are fully compliant with parental rights and authority over education and child-rearing as per human rights agreements.

3-Give families the option of having the full amount of per capita education funding allocated to them for learning costs. (Currently some BC Distance Learning programs provide \$1000 of the average \$8300 district operations per capita funding to enrolled students).

4-End funding for groups that use discriminatory definitions of “child care”, “early learning”, and “work” that exclude family care work, such as UBC’s Human Early Learning Partnership.

II - SUPPORT OPTIMAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE

5-Ensure that supporting parent-child attachment and adult-child attachment is an explicit pillar of policy for families, children, foster care, education, early learning, health, mental health, and crime reduction.

6-Ensure staff-to-child ratios & group size regulations for early learning and care programs are brought into line with empirical peer-reviewed research so children’s developmental needs are respected and not compromised.

7-Transfer funding for all-day kindergarten to the Universal Child Benefit.

8-Convert BC's Strong Start and similar school drop-in programs to parent-run spaces; end registration requirement.

9-Establish a BC/National Early Learning Advisor; appoint developmental psychologist Dr Gordon Neufeld.

10-Toxins: ensure that all toys, child & maternity products produced or sold in Canada do not contain toxins.

11-Public info: Ads promoting breastfeeding as per WHO 2 year minimum, and adult-child attachment.

III - FINANCE UNIVERSAL & EQUITABLE CHILD CARE

All children need child care.

12-Establish a Universal Child Benefit (UCB): redistribute funding related to child care and early learning equitably to all families with dependent children, regardless of the form of child care and early learning, through a refundable tax credit, or expansion of the Child Tax Benefit, or like means, based on income. (Currently daycare centre care receives by far the most child care funding; parental child care receives none).

13-Public transit: make it free for ages 0-12.

14-Employment Insurance: Take maternity and parental benefits out of EI system and make benefits available to *all* families. (Currently *one third* of mothers are ineligible for any funds via EI.).

15-Welfare: Replace with maximum level of the UCB; take parents out of this system as they *are* working. (BC welfare ends when youngest child is 3).

16-Taxation: Adopt France's family taxation model: family is taxed as a unit, each child is equivalent to 50 percent of adult personal exemption. Scrap the discriminatory Child Care Expense Deduction.

**INSIST ON FAMILY POLICY THAT IS
* EFFECTIVE * FAIR * GREEN * HOLISTIC ***

JOIN

**Kids First Parent Association of Canada
www.kidsfirstcanada.org**