

JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICY

****EFFECTIVE*FAIR*GREEN*HOLISTIC****

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

“States Parties 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.”

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

I - RESPECT RIGHTS

1-Ensure that all legislated definitions of "child care" and "work" respect rights and do not discriminate against any parent or child; explicitly include parental child care; count this as work as it is socially essential work.

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 home-learning programs provide \$1000 of the average \$8300 district operational per capita funding to enrolled families).

4-End funding for groups that use discriminatory definitions of “child care”, “early learning”, and “work”.

II - SUPPORT OPTIMAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE

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

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

7-Eliminate funding for all-day kindergarten.

8-Convert Strong Start school drop-in programs to parent-run spaces; eliminate registration requirement.

9-Establish a BC Early Learning Advisor with developmental psychologist Dr Gordon Neufeld in the position.

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

11-Public education: promote breastfeeding as per WHO 2 year minimum; promote adult-child attachment.

III - FINANCE UNIVERSAL & EQUITABLE CHILD CARE

All children need child care 24/7/365.

12-Establish a Universal Child Benefit (UCB): redistribute existing 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 from these EI benefits.)

15-Welfare: 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.