

DAYCARE DIS-INFORMATION EXPOSED - APRIL 18 2006
EXCERPTS FROM REPORT: "FACT & FICTION, IDEOLOGIES & AGENDAS"

see Kids First Parent Assoc. of Can. for referenced/linked version www.kidsfirstcanada.org 604-291-0088

HIGHLIGHTS

- less than 15% of children 0-5 are in daycare (see #1)
- most daycares are not full but have vacancies (see #2)
- most mothers are not at full-time paid jobs outside the home (see #3)
- an infant/toddler centre 'space' can cost over \$20,000/yr (see #4)
- daycare is heavily subsidized even for high income families - over \$13,000/yr/infant (see #4)
- most gov-regulated daycare is low quality (see #5)
- Quebec allows 1 staff for 8 babies (see #5)
- polls say funding should go to families not daycare spaces (see #6)
- the daycare lobby is powerful because it is heavily tax funded, corporate and union backed (see #7)

"All child care data is flaky data."

Martha Friendly, top daycare lobbyist, Co-ordinator of Child Care Resource and Research Unit, Uof T, phone conversation 2001

IDEOLOGY NOT FACT is the basis of daycare policy. It's about GDP expansion, corporate profits and state intervention in child-rearing. We wouldn't accept the ideology, so dis-information is used to sell the policy.

THE FACTS

1 – FEW CHILDREN ARE IN DAYCARE

- *Less than 10% age 0-12 are in daycare. Age 6 mos-5yrs: 46% in parental care while parent(s) "worked or studied". Only 15.1% in daycare centres: 28% of 54% in non-parental care. Stats Canada's March 2006 report does not give the actual percentage in the entire 99 page report.
- *In Quebec, 21% of children 1-5 are in "universal" daycare. (Merrigan, Lefebvre)

2 - WHAT ABOUT THE "CRISIS", THE "SHORTAGE" AND "WAITING LISTS"? VACANCIES

- *Ken Dryden, *"the problem in Canada is not a shortage of child-care spots"* (Globe & Mail Dec 6 2005)
- * Lists are bogus measures. Children are on multiple lists, not born, in daycare, parents plan ahead.
- ***The majority of daycare report VACANCIES: 53.7%** reported vacancies. Overall vacancy rate: 8.4%. 14.7% had over 20% of spaces vacant. (*You Bet I Care! Report 1*)

3 –FALSE: "THE REALITY IS 70% OF MOTHERS ARE WORKING OUTSIDE THE HOME"

- * the reality is that **every mother is a working mother**: *"the [British]Office for National Statistics did a valuation of women's homemaking and care, and came up with a figure of £929bn, or 104% of GDP."*
- * 70% is not for "work" or "paid work": it is the "Labour Force Participation rate". It includes mothers who:
 - do **any** paid work at all – no minimum time or pay – eg school noon hour supervisor
 - are **unemployed, looking for work, on EI**
 - have a job but not at it** – eg on paid or unpaid maternity or parental leave
 - do **unpaid** work for a family farm or business
 - do paid **home-based** work with children present, e.g. daycare, telecommute

4 - COSTS, FUNDING, SUBSIDIES for DAYCARE vs WELFARE:

- *The Liberal promise of \$11 billion over 10 years = only **\$500/child** for over 2 million age 0-5.
- *High income families using daycare can receive more financial support than lone parents on welfare: The FULL cost of infant daycare is over **\$20,000**: bureaucracy, capital, training, lobbying and operating costs. \$13,000+ is the value of the subsidy to high-income family with 1 infant: \$10,000 to system + \$3000 Child Care Expense Deduction (\$7000 deduction). COMPARE: Lone parent with 1 baby on welfare receives \$10,250/yr (BC - \$0 when child is 3)+about \$3600 from CTB.
- *Quebec: **\$15,700/yr** to non-profit centres for a space for age 0-18 months, **\$11,500/yr** age 18-59 mos.

5 - FALSE: GOV'T REGULATION ASSURES QUALITY :Leading daycare lobbyists find that:

- *Most gov-regulated child care in Canada **"is of minimal to mediocre quality"**. 73% of Quebec daycare is of minimal or lower quality. ("You Bet I Care", OECD, IRPP "Quality Counts")
- ***"The majority of children age 0-12 in centres do not receive adequate amounts or types of experiences to promote language and cognitive development"** (Dr Gillian Doherty)
- ***Quality is getting worse** as child:staff ratios are increasing: for age 1 yr: Ontario 5:1, Quebec 8:1.

- ***No "overwhelming research" shows daycare benefits children.** Research shows that:
 - cognitive advantages of daycare and preschool are at best "modest" and do not last
 - children benefit from "sensitive, responsive care" and adult attachment
 - mothers' sensitivity is greatest predictor of child's outcomes
 - daycare is associated with reduced maternal sensitivity
 - daycare children **get sick far more**
 - daycare children have **increased cortisol (stress) level** which is associated with addiction
 - longer hours in centre-based care result in **increased aggressive, non-compliant & cruel behaviour**

6 - POLLS: PARENTAL CARE PREFERRED, FUNDS SHOULD GO TO FAMILIES NOT DAYCARE

*the claim we want a “child care system” is from polls that don’t define “child care” as “daycare” (CPRN)

* "9 out of 10 say 1 parent should be at home with preschool child" and 6+/10 say same for elementary age child . Parental care is ranked #1, daycare centre care is ranked #5. (Vanier Institute 2004)

* “Should government give money to daycare so that it costs less, or should government give money to parents so that parents can better afford whatever care they themselves decide is best for their own children?” 79% said parents, up 10% since 1997, and 21% said daycare. (Compass poll 2000)

7-TAX-FUNDED LOBBY, ELITE OF LEFT AND RIGHT SUPPORT

*Both corporate ‘right’ and labour ‘left’ lobby for daycare: World Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, The Economist Magazine, Van. Board of Trade, OECD, RAND Corporation, CAW, CFL, CUPE, etc.

*Can.’s corporate exec.s favour gov funding daycare: Report on Business poll of top execs (Globe Mar 20/06)

* daycare lobbyists are funded by taxes: government is lobbying itself - and us. The following are some lobby groups receiving gov funding. Some are fully government funded.

- Child Care Research and Resource Unit at U of T
- The Caledon Institute
- Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
- Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
- The Child Care Federation Of Canada
- Canadian Social Policy Research Network
- (BC) Provincial Childcare Council (child care is defined as non-parental care in BC law)
- Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
- Campaign 2000
- Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
- (BC) Child Care Advocacy Forum
- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

THE IDEOLOGY

THE OECD “NEW ORDER”AGENDA:

The “*ideology of the family*” is past. We are moving to “*a new order. This includes deep changes in societies in general and in the family’s structure in particular...a review of the family-state relationship regarding the responsibility for the care and education of children.*” (OECD “An Integrated Approach to ECEC”)

McJOBS FOR MUMS:

The pro-market OECD generates “*POST-MATERNALIST*” and “*POST-FAMILIALIST*” policy expressed at conferences such as “*Putting More Women to Work*” and “*Babies and Bosses*”. The policy package bundles daycare funding with de-funding families and with workfare. Daycare is funded by making massive cuts to child benefits and to welfare. This has happened across Canada and the US. The intent is to create more “*flexible labour markets*” with daycare “*(directly or indirectly) subsidizing low wage employment (‘welfare in work’)*” in the globalized ‘Knowledge Based Economy’. For women, they seek to “*redefine equality*” by making Labour Force attachment the measure of equality, disregarding preferences for parent-child attachment.

GET WITH THE PROGRAM OR ELSE:

Micheal Krashinsky, OECD daycare economist, U of T, co-author of “for every \$1 invested, \$2-7 are saved”:

*“*Capitalism is and always has been brutal....Whenever there has been change, people have been ground up.*

People like stability, so to get them to leave a dying industry or whatever, you have to burn them...” (Tor Star)

*“*The old labour-intensive way of caring for children...is no longer viable.*” (Benefits & Costs)

ENGINEERING “SOCIETAL ATTITUDES”:

*“*conservative family values are very popular....Attempts to change this attitude have been partially successful.... but the challenge is formidable*” (“Babysitters or Professionals? The Role of Societal Attitudes”)

* “conservative values” are not the only “problem, so is “*liberal ideology [which] believes in individual choice and individual responsibility...[and] refrain[ing] as much as possible from...government intervention.*”

REJECTION OF EMPIRICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE:

According to the influential European Commission and Canada’s Child Care Resource and Research Unit:

*“*Definitions of quality cannot be based on empirical research .*”

*“*quality is a relative concept, based on values and beliefs*”

*“*The concept ...that a very young child learns best through the close emotional security of a relationship with one adult, is a culturally specific one, and is not generally shared by member states....ratios...should reflect the objectives of the service.*”

* “*Alternate theories place less emphasis on mothering or substitute mothering and more emphasis on developing relationships between children themselves[Methods’] stress the importance of maintaining children’s autonomy by minimizing adult interference , and mediating as little as possible in baby and toddler activities....What role should adults play in very young children’s learning...turns on...the extent to which young children are trusted with the freedom to explore out of the range of adult gaze.*”