

# **FACT & FICTION, IDEOLOGIES & AGENDAS - DAYCARE DIS-INFORMATION EXPOSED**

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*“All child care data is flaky data.”*

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

## **THE FACTS**

### **1 – FEW CHILDREN ARE IN DAYCARE CENTRES**

Age 6 mos-5yrs: 14.9% in centres. Stats Can buried this on p 97 of 99 p study, reporting “52% in child care.”

\* *Child Care in Canada* <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/89-599-MIE/89-599-MIE2006003.pdf>

\* In Quebec, 21% of children 1-5 are in daycare centres.

-Merrigan and Lefebvre <http://132.203.59.36/CIRPEE/cahierscirpee/2005/files/CIRPEE05-08.pdf> p34

### **2 - WHAT ABOUT THE “CRISIS”, THE “SHORTAGE” AND “WAITING LISTS”?**

\*Toronto currently (Mar/09) has a **vacancy rate of 5.4%**: 2,191 vacant spaces out of 40,337 spaces.

<http://www.toronto.ca/children/dmc/vacancy.pdf> [http://www.toronto.ca/children/dmc/spaces\\_stat.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/children/dmc/spaces_stat.pdf)

\* Wait lists are bogus measures. Names are listed years in advance, on multiple lists, not removed.

\*“*The Liberal government's Social Development Minister, Ken Dryden, said the problem in Canada is not a shortage of child-care spots, but a shortage of good-quality care.*” Globe & Mail Dec 6/05

\* **VACANCIES: 53.7% of centres reported vacancies.** Overall vacancy rate: 8.4%. 14.7% had **over 20% of spaces vacant.** “*Vacancy rates of this magnitude make it extremely difficult to sustain financial viability* -**You Bet I Care! Report 1**, pp. 163-168 [http://action.web.ca/home/cfwwb/attach/ybic\\_report\\_1.pdf](http://action.web.ca/home/cfwwb/attach/ybic_report_1.pdf)

### **3 –FICTION: “THE REALITY IS 70% OF MOTHERS ARE WORKING OUTSIDE THE HOME”**

\* 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... 104% of GDP.*”

-Behind the baby gap lies a culture of contempt for parenthood, Guardian March/06 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Columnists/Column/0,,1725350,00.html>

\* 70% is a catch-all Labour Force Participation rate. It includes mothers who:

- are on paid or unpaid leave
- do any paid work at all part-time
- are looking for work
- do UNPAID work for a family farm or business
- do paid work with children present

-definitions in Statistics Canada's work data: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/71-222-XIE/2004000/glossary.htm>

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

\*Sweden pays nearly **\$27,000 per child/yr** age 1-5 in daycare a center.

\***Quebec pays \$15,700/yr to non-profit centres for a space for age 0-18 months, \$11,500/yr age 18-59 mos.**  
*Low Fee Regulated Childcare Policy* CIRPEE <http://132.203.59.36/CIRPEE/cahierscirpee/2005/files/CIRPEE05-08.pdf> p22 footnote

\*Toronto pays up to \$70/day - **\$18,000+/yr** - for fee subsidy so parent can earn \$16,000 in workfare.

\***Fees cover only 50% of the centres' operation costs.** Capital, bureaucracy, training are additional costs.

\*In most provinces parents become ineligible for welfare when the youngest child turns 1.

\*High 2-income families using daycare receive more financial support than single parents on welfare due to the massive subsidy to the system and \$4000-\$7000 Child Care Expense tax deduction to age 16. .

### **5 - FICTION: GOV'T REGULATION ASSURES QUALITY** Leading daycare lobbyists find that:

**Most government-regulated child care in Canada “is of minimal to mediocre quality”.**

Quebec: 2005 IRPP study: 73% of Quebec daycare is of minimal or lower quality.

-*You Bet I Care! 2* [http://action.web.ca/home/cfwwb/attach/ybic\\_report\\_2.pdf](http://action.web.ca/home/cfwwb/attach/ybic_report_2.pdf), p. ix-x

*Quality Counts* IRPP Vol 11 #5 Dec 2005 <http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol11no5.pdf>

\*“*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 presentation [http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca/documents/Gillian\\_Doherty\\_ANG.pdf](http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca/documents/Gillian_Doherty_ANG.pdf) p.4

\***Quality: allowable** child:staff ratios ensure poor quality: eg 5:1 for 0-18 months Ontario & Quebec.

-“Daycare Staff:Child Ratios & ‘Quality’: Bad and Getting Worse” <http://www.kidsfirstcanada.org/blog-vol3.htm>

### **6 - POLLS: PARENTAL CARE PREFERED, FUNDS SHOULD GO TO FAMILIES NOT DAYCARE**

\*claims that a majority want a “child care system” are from polls that don't define “child care” as “daycare centre”

\* "9 out of 10 say 1 parent should be at home with preschool child" and 6-7 out of 10 say same for elementary age child . Parental care is ranked #1, daycare centre care is ranked #5.

-2004 Vanier Institute poll [http://www.vifamily.ca/library/future/future\\_toc.html](http://www.vifamily.ca/library/future/future_toc.html) section 5 and section 8 - #5

\* “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.

-2000 Canada-wide Compass poll for National Foundation for Family Research and Education

## **7- TAXES AND ELITE OF LEFT & RIGHT SUPPORT DAYCARE LOBBY**

\*Both corporate 'right' and labour 'left' lobby for daycare: World Bank, Royal Bank, The Economist, Van. Board of Trade, the Gandalf Group, OECD, RAND Corporation, CAW, CFL, CUPE, etc.

\* Daycare lobbyists are funded by taxes. All the following groups received funding from government.  
- Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC, Child Care Research and Resource Unit, YWCA,  
-Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, Campaign 2000, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre,  
-The Child Care Federation Of Canada

## **THE IDEOLOGY**

**IDEOLOGY NOT FACT** is the basis of daycare policy. It's about GDP expansion, corporate profits and state intervention in child-rearing.

### **1-THE OECD "NEW ORDER"AGENDA**

The *"ideology of the family" is past. We are in transition 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" and "Professionalization of care"* –OECD presentation, "An Integrated Approach to Early Childhood Education and Care: A Preliminary Study" <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/op16/op16.pdf>, p. 3

### **2-McJOBS FOR MUMS – THE NEW 'GENDER EQUITY'**

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 bundles funding daycare funding with de-funding families, welfare cuts and workfare. The intent is to create more *"flexible labour markets"* with daycare *"(directly or indirectly) subsidizing low wage employment ('welfare in work')"*.

-*"Putting More Women to Work: A Colloquium on Employ't, Child Care & Taxes"*

[http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_37457\\_31687864\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37457,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,2340,en_2649_37457_31687864_1_1_1_37457,00.html)

"The OECD and the Reconciliation Agenda: Competing Blueprints," R. Mahon <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/op20/op20.pdf> p9-11

### **2-GET WITH THE PROGRAM OR ELSE**

\*Dr Krashinsky, Univ of Tor. & OECD daycare economist, 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..."*

\**"The old labour-intensive way of caring for children...is no longer viable."*

-*"Brave New Workplace"*, *The Toronto Star*, 24 April 1993

-*The Benefits & Costs of Good Child Care* Cleveland & Krashinski <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/other/benefits/bc.pdf> p74

### **4-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 in the Retention and Recruitment of Child Care Workers"*

<http://home.istar.ca/%7Eeccns/RR/DP/C.pdf> pp.3-4

\* "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."*

-*"Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators & Care givers: The Policy Factor"* <http://home.istar.ca/%7Eeccns/RR/DP/D.pdf> pp.4, 2

### **5-REJECTION OF EMPIRICAL RESEARCH & 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"*

-*"Briefing Notes: Quality targets in services for young children"* [www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/pdf/BN\\_qualityservicetargets.pdf](http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/pdf/BN_qualityservicetargets.pdf)

\**"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."*

-*"A Framework for Quality: A European Perspective"* Helen Penn for The European Commission Network on Childcare and Other Measures to Reconcile Employment with Family Responsibilities <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/fs/fs6.pdf>

\* *"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."*

- *"A Framework for Quality"* European Commission Network on Childcare and Other Measures to Reconcile Employment with Family Responsibilities <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/fs/fs6.pdf>; *"Values and Beliefs in Caring for Babies and Toddlers"* <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/fs/fs7.pdf>

-*"Values and Beliefs in Caring for Babies and Toddlers"* CRRU Fact Sheet - Helen Penn