

SEPT 29 MEDIA RELEASE (FULLY REFERENCED VERSION WITH LINKS)

DAYCARE MIS-INFORMATION EXPOSED with facts from gov't and gov't funded sources

Kids First Parent Assoc. of Canada www.kidsfirstcanada.org 604-291-0088

HIGHLIGHTS

- only 9% of children are in daycare (see #1)
- most daycares are not full and have vacancies (see #2)
- most mothers are not at full-time paid jobs outside the home (see #3)
- most daycare is low quality (see #5)
- an infant/toddler centre 'space' costs over \$14,600/yr (see #4)
- daycare is heavily subsidized even for high income families - over \$10,000/yr/infant (see #4)
- Quebec allows 1 staff for 8 babies, in Sweden 1 for up to 22 1-3 yr olds(see #5)
- 9 out of 10 say funding should go to families not daycare spaces (see #6)
- the daycare lobby is powerful because it is heavily tax funded (see #7)

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 mis-information is used to condition us.

* 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.”* -“An Integrated Approach to Early Childhood Education and Care: A Preliminary Study”<http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/op16/op16.pdf>, p. 3

*Dr. Micheal Krashinski, leading daycare economist at University of Toronto advises:

“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

* McJobs for mums: OECD **“POST-MATERNALISM”** and **“POST-FAMILIALISM”** policy mean public subsidies for corporations' low pay jobs.

“The OECD & the Reconciliation Agenda: Competing Blueprints” http://action.web.ca/home/crru/rsrscs_crru_full.shtml?x=81757, p11

* We must change **“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

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

Martha Friendly, top daycare researcher-lobbyists, Co-ordinator of Child Care Resource and Research Unit, Univ. of Tor, phone conversation 2001

* **“Definitions of quality cannot be based on empirical research .”** “Developmental science” and “attachment theory” are explicitly rejected by international authorities.

-“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>

1 – FEW CHILDREN ARE IN DAYCARE

*only 9% of children in BC in daycare: 601,700 age 0-12, 36,115 are enrolled, excluding preschool & drop-in child-minding

- Provincial Child Care Survey 2001 http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ChildCar/PDFs/Appendix_F.pdf, p.1

-Early Childhood Education and Care 2001 http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2001/tables_big/TABLE4.pdf

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

* Lists are bogus measures. Children are on multiple lists, not born, in daycare, those whose parents plan ahead.

*58.3% of BC daycares reported vacancies, and the overall vacancy rate is 10.8%. The mean number of vacancies in daycare centres ranges from 5.1-7.3

-You Bet I Care! Report 1, pp. 163-166 http://action.web.ca/home/cfwwb/attach/ybic_report_1.pdf

- Provincial Child Care Survey 2001 http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ChildCar/PDFs/part_iii.pdf p.55

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

* every mother is a working mother

* 70% is not for “work” or “paid work”: it is “labour force participation rate”. This 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

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

-Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2004 http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2004/tables_big/TABLE6.pdf

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

*Even high 2-income parents are heavily subsidized: Taxpayers cover over \$6000 worth of costs for infant care, and they can receive a \$1750-\$3500 benefit from tax deductions. This **excludes** public funding for capital, training, bureaucracy, research, lobbying, regulation, monitoring, etc. (Average fees for FT infant care in BC: \$705/month = \$8,450/yr. But "true cost" - operating costs ONLY - are \$14,604/yr.

*PROPOSED FEE subsidy for second child 0-18 months in daycare centre: \$750/month = \$9,000/yr vs \$2,376/yr for in-home babysitter.

-BC child care subsidy rates http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ChildCar/PDFs/rate_table_meia.pdf

*WELFARE? Single parent, \$38,000/yr income, 2 age 0-18 mos. in daycare centre: fee subsidy ONLY: \$18,000/yr. True cost to public: well over \$29,000. Same parent on welfare: \$10,440; with 6 children: \$12,180.

-Provincial Child Care Survey 2001 http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ChildCar/PDFs/Appendix_F.pdf p.2

-BC Gov't public consultation paper: *Building a Better Future for BC's Kids*, p.4, 1999.

-Welfare rates <http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/mhr/ia.htm>

-BC "Child Care Subsidy Rates" http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ChildCar/PDFs/rate_table_meia.pdf

*BC spends per child in daycare over \$4,500 vs \$274 per child (before proposed funding).

-Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2004 http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2004/tables_long/TABLE28.pdf -ECEC 2004
http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2004/tables_long/TABLE30.pdf

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

*Most government-regulated child care in Canada "is of minimal to mediocre quality"

-*You Bet I Care! 2* http://action.web.ca/home/cfwwb/attach/ybic_report_2.pdf, p. ix-x

*"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 p.4

*Quality is getting worse as child:staff ratios are increasing: for age 1 yr: Ontario 5:1, Quebec 8:1. In Sweden up to 22:1 for age 1-3.

-"Daycare Staff:Child Ratios & 'Quality': Bad and Getting Worse" <http://www.kidsfirstcanada.org/blog-vol3.htm>

-*Pre-School in Transition* by Swedish Min. of Education

*No "overwhelming research" shows daycare benefits children. Research shows: that children benefit from "sensitive, responsive care" and adult attachment...that daycare children get sick more...that daycare increases children's cortisol (stress) level which is associated with addiction...increases aggressive & non-compliant behaviour... reduces mothers' sensitivity...mothers' sensitivity is greatest predictor of child's outcomes.

-aggressive behaviour increases with time in centre-based care http://www.nichd.nih.gov/new/releases/child_care.cfm

-quality affects development http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca/documents/Margaret_Tresch_Owen_ANG.pdf p27

-'childcare' study includes care by fathers; mother-child interaction affected, <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/new/releases/rel4top.cfm>

-importance of parental attachment: Gordon Neufeld & Gabor Mate, *Hold on to Your Kids: Why Parents Matter*

-rat mums' licks raise serotonin, halt aggression

www.sciencentral.com/articles/view.php3?language=english&type=&article_id=218391871

-peer raised monkeys abuse drugs www.sciencentral.com/articles/view.php3?language=english&type=&article_id=218392104

-SIDS associated with low serotonin www.sciencentral.com/articles/view.php3?article_id=218392452

6 - UNIVERSAL?

*"Universal" means ALL want & use it, like medical services. Daycare can only be financed and staffed if all PAY but FEW use it; OR if it is grossly understaffed - as in Sweden.

-"Swedish Government Report Critiques Appalling Daycare Conditions" <http://www.kidsfirstcanada.org/blog-vol1.htm>

*Quebec's so-called "universal" system in now costing over \$1.56 billion and faces chronic staffing problems, and has fewer than 25% of children in it. Top daycare lobbyist Martha Friendly now admits it is not "universal".

-ECEC 2004 http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2004/tables_long/TABLE28.pdf

-Jocelyn Tougas, *Reforming Quebec's Early Childhood Care and Education: the First Five Years*, p. 74

<http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/op17/op17ENG.pdf>

-LTE Montreal Gazette

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

*the claim we want a "child care system" is from polls that intentionally don't define "child care" as "daycare"

-*Values and Preferences for the "Best Policy Mix" for Can. Children*, Can. Policy Research Network www.cprn.org/Repease/Press/prvpb_e.htm

* "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.

-2004 Vanier Institute poll 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-TAX-FUNDED LOBBY NOT GRASSROOTS

* daycare lobbyists are funded by taxes: government is lobbying itself - and us.

-Child Care Research and Resource Unit at the University of Toronto <http://www.childcarecanada.org/about/>

-Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada http://www.childcareadvocacy.ca/resources/pdf/ccaac_annualreport04.pdf, p.4

-Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC www.cccabc.ca

-Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre <http://www.wstcoast.org/>

-(BC) Child Care Advocacy Forum <http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/forum/index.html>

-The Child Care Federation Of Canada http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/aboutus/annualreport_en.pdf p.7

-Canadian Council on Social Development <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2003/ar-0304.pdf> p.2

-Canadian Social Policy Research Network www.cprn.com/documents/33894_en.pdf p. 42