

PUBLIC CHILDCARE FOR BC

The Plan for \$10/day child care is creating excitement right across British Columbia and is supported by municipalities from Burnaby to Dawson Creek, Boards of Education from the Gulf Islands to Vancouver, the Surrey Board of Trade, academics, community organizations, anti-poverty groups and thousands of individuals.

Right now in BC, parent fees for child care can reach as high as \$1915 per month per child and waiting lists can be years long, with only enough spaces in BC for 20% of our children. The crisis has gone from bad to worse in the last decade BUT there is a solution: the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning known as the \$10/day child care Plan.

There are major economic gains for government and for business if the Plan is implemented. As documented by economists, more parents will be able to participate in the labour force, which means more income taxes for governments, and those parents will be spending their wages in their local economy, which is good for business.

It's also the case that more women will be able to resume their careers after maternity leave, as childcare will be available and affordable, which saves business from needing to recruit replacement staff.

The Plan moves child care into the Ministry of Education, supporting families with young children with affordable access to quality early care and learning before they start school at age 5 in the same way we all support education in the Kindergarten to grade 12 system.

The Plan requires government to commit to lowering fees to \$10/day for full-time, \$7/day for part-time care and no user fee for families who earn less than \$40,000/year, raising staff training and wages and building new spaces - all within a 5-10 year implementation schedule.

The fully implemented cost is \$1.5 billion – which is an investment we can afford because of the returns, and because it's the right thing to do for kids, women, families and our economy.

Coalition of Childcare Advocates of BC
Media Release, July 25th, 2012

Working together for a community based, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and accountable.
See economic data at: <http://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/11/06/earlyeducation-economic-forum>

For more information on the \$10/day Plan see www.cccabc.bc.ca