



Child Care Coalition  
of Manitoba

*Annual Report*  
*2000*

# Mandate

The Coalition is the only group in Manitoba with the mandate to work toward a fully accessible, publicly-funded, non-profit system of comprehensive and high quality child care, with worthy wages and good working conditions for staff. We advocate a coordinated system of services, including licensed, full and part-time group and family child care, parent-child drop-in centres, nursery schools, resource and toy-lending libraries and other child care supports for children and their parents.

We use ‘child care’ to mean early childhood care and development services for children 0 -12 years, outside the immediate family and outside regular schooling. We include children with mothers (parents) in and out of the labour force. Our proposal supports all children and parents -- whether employed, in training or at-home.

We support an inclusive, diverse and accessible child care system because high quality child care is good for children and their families. Child care is an excellent public investment.

## Key Activities in 2000

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- **Meeting with Premier Gary Doer: Brief to Government**

On January 15th, the Coalition met with Premier Gary Doer, Hon. Tim Sale, Hon. Diane McGifford and the Hon. Becky Barrett to present our ten-page brief, *Child Care for Manitobans: A Proposal to the Manitoba Government for a ‘Quebec-Style’ Child Care System*. The brief was endorsed by over sixty organizations, and the lobby generated significant media coverage. Copies are available from our office.

- **Early Childhood Development (ECD) Campaign**

The Coalition initiated a campaign on the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Services Agreement. Over the next five years under this new agreement, Manitoba will receive \$80 million new dollars to support children’s services. The Child Care Coalition of Manitoba is calling upon the Manitoba government to dedicate 2/3 of Manitoba’s share of the first year’s federal dollars to child care and 1/3 to other children’s services. For more information on our “Two-Thirds Campaign,” please contact our office for a brochure.

- **Public Education and Policy Conference**

On November 24th, the Coalition and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives hosted a successful one-day conference for over 100 participants at the Manitoba Legislature, featuring Quebec, B.C., Ontario and Manitoba speakers.

The morning session centred on Manitoba’s past and present child care system. Presenters were Muriel Smith, former Minister of Community Services, the Hon. Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing, Dr. Susan Prentice of the University of Manitoba, and Pat Wege, Executive Director of the MCCA. In the afternoon, panelists from B.C. and Quebec spoke about the initiatives their provinces are undertaking.

The Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Social Services of B.C. outlined his government's new policy, and leading B.C. advocate Rita Chudnovsky spoke about community initiatives. Jocelyne Tougas spoke about Quebec's successful program. Martha Friendly, Coordinator of the University of Toronto's Child Care Resource and Research Unit set a national context.

- **Community Workshop**

On November 25th, the Coalition organized a workshop in downtown Winnipeg, featuring Quebec's Jocelyne Tougas and B.C.'s Maryann Bird. In a wide-ranging discussion, presenters spoke on how advocates had worked in their provinces to develop a new public policy approach to child care, and strategized on what Manitobans might learn from their campaigns.

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The Coalition met with the Hon. Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing, on June 28th, 2000 to discuss child care policy. We have since been in active correspondence with him over a number of concerns.

On November 16th, as part of the World Women's March 2000, Coalition representatives and others met with Hon. Diane McGifford, Hon. Becky Barrett and other government officials at the Manitoba Legislature. We spoke on child care, which is one of the demands of "Its Time for Change," the March's brief to government.

On December 12th, we met with Hon. Gord McIntosh and ten MLAs to reiterate our concern that child care is a key component of women's full social equality.

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In June, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Manitoba released *A Decade of Decline: Regulated Child Care in Manitoba, 1989-1999*, a 20,000 word research report authored by Coalition Steering Committee member Susan Prentice. This report formed the basis for of a tabloid produced by the CCPA, as part of the lead-up to the November policy conference. Twenty-five thousand copies of the tabloid were distributed in Manitoba. Copies of the report are available from our office, the CCPA, and on-line at [www.policyalternatives.ca/mb](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/mb)

We produced a "*New Dollars for Child Care*": *The 2/3 Campaign* flyer, proposing how Manitoba can best spend the new ECD funds.

Our brief, *Child Care for Manitobans: A Proposal to the Manitoba Government for a 'Quebec-Style' Child Care System*, (January 2000) is also available from our office.

## Lobbying

## Research

## **Membership & Administration**

The Child Care Coalition of Manitoba was established in 1994. We are an unincorporated broadly-based coalition of nearly forty groups and many individuals. We continue to receive and welcome new members. Our members are drawn from the child care community, women's groups, the labour movement, researchers, parents and other organizations committed to social justice.

Any group/individual supporting the Coalition's mandate may join. There is no membership fee. Members are welcome to send a representative to our regular Steering Committee meetings. Steering Committee meetings are open to all members, and minutes are circulated and available.

The Coalition has no on-going funding or staff, although we gratefully acknowledge the very generous support of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), as well as CUPE, CEP Local 7, CUPW, MGEU and MNU. We rely on volunteer labour, fundraising and in-kind contributions from members and supporters.

For copies of our membership brochure and mandate as well as other publications, please contact our office.

## **Steering Committee**

For more information about the Coalition, you are warmly encouraged to contact the following selected Steering Committee members:

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## **Contact**

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