



**Child Care Coalition  
of Manitoba**

***Annual Report  
2001***

# 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.

---

## 2001 Vision Campaign

On February 3rd 2001, the Minister of Family Services and Housing released a "A Vision for Child Care and Development in Manitoba," and invited public comment. In response, the Coalition joined with other provincial supporters to respond and encourage public input. Between February - May, over 24,000 Manitobans responded to the Vision, a remarkable outpouring of citizen support.

The Coalition prepared a comprehensive ***Blueprint for Action: A Five Year Plan For Manitoba Child Care Policy Redesign***. The 17-page *Blueprint* includes principles for policy redesign and action plans. This document was prepared after broad consultation with key child care sectors, Coalition members and the public. We presented our *Blueprint* to Hon. Diane McGifford, Minister Responsible for Status of Women, and Hon. Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing, on March 8th, International Women's Day.

In May, when the "Vision" consultation period was over, we developed a second paper: ***Vision Into Action: A Seven Step Manitoba Child Care Strategy***. Our goal in *Vision into Action* was to urge the provincial government to capitalize on the public support shown by over 24,000 Manitobans.

Our organization, like many others, worked very hard in the first half of 2001 to ensure that Manitobans had the opportunity to voice their vision for childcare, and to participate in the consultation.

## Lobbying

We met many times with decision-makers, to urge childcare redesign:

- March: we met with Tim Sale, Minister for Family Services and Housing and Diane McGifford, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women;
- April: we met with Liberal leader Jon Gerrard, to discuss child care issues;
- May: we made a “Vision into Action” presentation to the Child Day Care Regulatory Review Committee;
- July: we met with Tim Sale, Minister for Family Services and Housing;
- November: we arranged a meeting with the women of the government and the NDP Status of Women Committee;
- November: we met with the NDP Caucus to talk about childcare challenges and solutions;
- December: we met with the Manitoba Federation of Labour;

As always, we continued to network with the Manitoba Child Care Association, the United Nations Platform For Action, the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, the labour movement and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, as well as with our partner organizations and other social justice associations. We also participate as members of two new groups, the Winnipeg One School Division Understanding the Early Years Community Coalition, and the Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities.

Over 2001, the Coalition issued press releases on our ‘Voice your Vision’ campaign, the provincial budget, and provincial spending on child care. Members of the Coalition were interviewed on television and radio, as well as in print.

## Research

### ***Blueprint for Action: A Five Year Plan For Manitoba Child Care Policy Redesign***

A seventeen-page document, which proposes seven new principles for childcare policy, discusses the challenges confronting the Manitoba childcare system, and proposes incremental, multi-year redesign. Available on-line through the UNPAC website or at [http://childcareadvocacy.ca/action/mb/vis\\_action.html](http://childcareadvocacy.ca/action/mb/vis_action.html), and in paper from the Coalition office.

### ***Vision Into Action: A Seven Step Manitoba Child Care Strategy***

A six-page document which proposes concrete and realistic planning steps to redesign Manitoba’s childcare system. Available on-line through the UNPAC website or at [http://childcareadvocacy.ca/action/mb/vis\\_action.html](http://childcareadvocacy.ca/action/mb/vis_action.html), and in paper from the Coalition office.

## 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:

Cecile Cassista: Tel. 470-8188 (w);

Maureen Morrison: Tel. 942-0343, ext. 208 (w), or email at [mmorrison@cupe.ca](mailto:mmorrison@cupe.ca)

Roberta Simpson: Tel 231-8635 (evenings); or email at [robertasimpson@hotmail.com](mailto:robertasimpson@hotmail.com)

Lynn Sknotnitsky: Tel: 231-8635; or email at [lynn.skotnitsky@shaw.ca](mailto:lynn.skotnitsky@shaw.ca)

Gary Thomlison: Tel. 453-3088 (w); or email at [frcinc@mts.net](mailto:frcinc@mts.net)

## Contact

Our offices are located at 1376 Grant Avenue, 2nd floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 3Y4

Tel: (204) 489-0355

Fax: (204) 487-2201

We do not yet have our own website, but some of our materials are available through the UNPAC Women and Economy website, on the "Caring For Children" page at <http://unpac.ca/economy/text/contributions-mainpage.htm>