



**Child Care Coalition
of Manitoba**

***Annual Report
2002***

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.

Public Education in 2002

Over 2002, we made public education a priority. We presented workshops, information tables and educationals to:

- Community Development Business Association
- Centre of Excellence on Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities
- Red River Community College
- Social Planning Council
- NDP 2002 Convention
- Winnipeg Labour Council
- Manitoba Federation of Labour Women's Committee
- Manitoba Nurses Union
- Manitoba Federation of Labour Executive
- Manitoba Child Care Association 2002 Conference
- Beaumont Day Care

We participated in a host of other community initiatives, including the November 2002 Early Childhood Development Summit. We maintain close relations with various community partners, especially UNPAC (MB), the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, the Childcare Resource and Research Unit, the Manitoba Child Care Association, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (MB) and others.

Political Lobbying

At the provincial level, we worked both in-front-of and behind-the-scenes to raise the profile of childcare and to advance our mandate for universally accessible, publicly-funded childcare. We corresponded and met with the Hon. Tim Sale and the Hon. Drew Caldwell, former and current Ministers of Family Services and Housing.

The Coalition provided specific public commentary on the province's 2002 Budget, through press releases and media commentary. Over the year, we issued other press releases and media commentary.

We responded to the province's "Five Year Plan for Child Care."

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Nationally, we met and corresponded with federal representatives. We promoted the importance of a national childcare strategy to the Hon. Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources as well as Manitoba Members of Parliament and Senators. We undertook a vigorous correspondence to recommend that Manitoba be permitted to enter direct bilateral negotiations with the federal government as a 'test case' province. We urged significant public investments in the federal budget.

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The Coalition also began to work at the municipal level. We started a dialogue with City of Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray and Councillor Jenny Gerbasi who holds the Inter-governmental Affairs portfolio. We shared information about how other major Canadian cities are developing an 'urban agenda' and proposed mechanisms to enable Winnipeg to do the same. Growing out of a research project which we will be undertaking, we plan to intensify our municipal focus in 2003.

We prepared several applications for research funding in 2002. Our proposal to Status of Women Canada for a one-year project titled, "***Childcare Research as a Tool for Development: A Social and Economic Impact Study of Childcare in Winnipeg***" was approved in early 2003.

Research

Susan Prentice presented a paper titled "***Childcare in Manitoba: Social Liberalism in Flux?***" in October 2002 at the conference, "Wanted: a Child Care Policy for Canadians," co-sponsored by Carleton University Institute of Political Economy and the Family Network of the Canadian Policy Research Network (CPRN), Ottawa, Ontario.

Copies of our 2001 ***Blueprint for Action: A Five Year Plan for Manitoba Childcare Policy Redesign*** and ***Vision into Action: A Seven-Step Manitoba Child Care Strategy*** are available at for download from our website at www.childcaremanitoba.ca and in paper from the Coalition office.

Membership & Administration

The Child Care Coalition of Manitoba was established in 1993. We are an unincorporated broadly-based coalition of nearly fifty groups and many individuals. We continue to grow 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 the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Communication Energy and Paper Workers Local 7, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Manitoba Government Employees Union and Manitoba Nurses Union. We rely on volunteer labour, fundraising and in-kind contributions from members and supporters. We encourage members to make donations to support our work.

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, or email at cassista@mts.net
Maureen Morrison	Tel. 942-0343, ext. 208, or email at mmorrison@cupe.ca
Susan Prentice	Tel. 474-6726, or Susan_Prentice@umanitoba.ca
Roberta Simpson	Tel. 775-4188 (evenings), or email at robertasimpson@shaw.ca

Contact

Our offices are located at 1376 Grant Avenue, 2nd floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 3Y4
Tel: (204) 489-0355
Fax: (204) 487-2201

You can email us at: info@childcaremanitoba.ca
Our website: www.childcaremanitoba.ca