

Mandate

Our goal is a *fully accessible, publicly-funded, non-profit system of comprehensive and high quality childcare, with worthy wages and good working conditions for childcare staff.*

We want a *coordinated and integrated* system of services, including *licensed full and part-time* group and family childcare, parent-child drop-in centres, nursery schools, resource and toy-lending libraries and *other childcare supports* for children and their parents.

We use 'childcare' to mean early childhood care and development services for *children 0 -12 years*. We believe childcare can support *all children and parents* – whether parents are employed, in training, or at-home.

We support an *inclusive, diverse and accessible* childcare system because high quality childcare is *good for children, parents, women, employers and all Manitobans.*

Childcare is *an excellent public investment*. Every dollar invested in quality child care returns two dollars in social benefits, according to a 1998 study by University of Toronto economists.

Why Childcare?

- "Children flourish in high quality childcare;
- "Diversity and social solidarity are enhanced in high quality childcare settings;
- "Inclusive programs promote equity among classes, levels of ability, racial and ethnic groups, as well as generations, strengthening social solidarity;
- "Childcare is essential for women's equality;
- "Childcare is, or could be, a core element in social development and community economic development;
- "As UNICEF explains, "far-sighted leaders understand that money spent now on early childhood care will pay off in the form of healthier, more productive children and in stable families that are able to sustain themselves and contribute to society."

Excerpts from our *Blueprint for Action: A Five-Year Plan for Manitoba Childcare Policy Redesign*, 2001.

(available online at www.childcareadvocacy/action/mb/vis_action.html)

Membership

The Child Care Coalition of Manitoba was established in 1993. We are a broadly-based and unincorporated coalition of groups and individuals.

The Coalition currently has nearly 50 group memberships. Our members include parents, the labour movement, women's groups, the childcare community, educators and researchers and organizations committed to social justice, among others.

There is no membership fee to join the Coalition. Contact us for a membership application.

How we Work

We welcome new members and volunteers. Any group supporting our mandate is welcome to join.

Our activities are led by a Steering Committee, to which member organizations send representatives. We strive for cooperative decision-making and consensus.

All member organizations receive regular mailings and invitations to attend meetings and participate in group activities.

How are we Funded?

The Coalition has no ongoing funding or staff, although we gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). We rely on volunteer labour, fundraising and contributions from members and supporters.

For More Information

You are welcome to contact the following Steering Committee members for more information:

- Cecile Cassista: Phone 470-8188, or email cassista@mts.net
- Maureen Morrison: Phone 942-0343, or email mmorrison@cupe.ca
- Susan Prentice: Phone 474-6727, or email Susan_Prentice@umanitoba.ca
- Roberta Simpson: Phone: 775-4188, or email robertasimpson@shaw.ca

mailing address

1376 Grant Ave, 2nd Floor,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 3Y4.

Phone: (204) 489-0355

Fax: (204) 487-2201

*Produced by volunteer labour
February 2003*

**CHILD CARE COALITION
OF MANITOBA**