

## **Mandate of the Coalition**

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 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. Our proposal supports all parents -- whether employed, in training or at-home.

There is no membership fee to join the Coalition. We welcome new members. Please contact us for a membership application.

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*Produced by volunteer labour*

# **Child Care Coalition of Manitoba**



## **NEW DOLLARS FOR CHILDCARE** **The 2/3 Campaign**

*Fall 2000*

# Improving Manitoba's Childcare System

## The 2/3 Solution

On September 11, 2000 Canada's First Ministers agreed to a national children's agenda. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Services Agreement will allocate \$2.2 billion over 5 years to children's services. Right now the Agreement provides that the First Ministers can focus on any or all of these areas:

- Promote healthy pregnancy, birth, and infancy
- Improve parenting and family supports
- Strengthen early childhood development and care
- Strengthen community support.

### **\$80 million: New Money for Manitoba**

Under the new ECD Agreement, Manitoba will receive significant new federal money to support children's services.

2001-02: \$11.1 million
2002-03: \$14.7 million
2003-04: \$18.2 million
2004-05: \$18.1 million
2005-06: \$18.0 million
<b>5 year total: \$80.1 million</b>

(Source: "CHST Cash Increase for Early Childhood Development," based on Government of Canada news release, "Funding Commitment of the Government of Canada")

### **A Beginning: New Federal Funds for children**

The new ECD Agreement is a first step towards promoting early childhood development, helping children reach their potential and helping families support their children within strong communities. However, to fulfil these objectives, families and children need a comprehensive range of children's services that support real

parental choices in every community across the country. The ECD Agreement is a 'cafeteria' approach to public policy: provinces are able to spend the new money any way they want -- including ignoring childcare, if they choose.

Access to high quality affordable child care in Manitoba is severely limited. In Manitoba, there is a licensed childcare space for only one in ten children. Childcare costs too much for most parents to afford, fee subsidies are inadequate, spaces are rarely available when and where they are needed, and childcare staff are chronically underpaid. Many communities, including Aboriginal, Francophone, rural and northern families, are particularly underserved.

### **Recommendation: 2/3 of new funds to Childcare:**

*The Child Care Coalition of Manitoba calls on the Manitoba government to dedicate 2/3 of Manitoba's share of the new ECD dollars to child care and early childhood education, and 1/3 to other children's services.*

With the new federal funds, Manitoba can begin to move forward. With the five-year commitment of federal funds, the money is available -- we can begin to develop a new model of childcare.

The Child Care Coalition of Manitoba looks forward to working with the provincial government to develop a fully accessible, publicly-funded, non-profit, comprehensive and coordinated, high quality childcare system, with good working conditions and worthy wages for early childhood staff, for all children and families in Manitoba.