

Linking parents from coast to coast to coast

Calling all parents to the Parents' Network – a virtual advocacy network set up by Parent Voices. To join, just add your name to the e-mail list (contact info@parentvoices.ca). You will receive information about current child care issues, new materials on the web pages, and current regional and pan-Canadian child care advocacy activities and campaigns. Participating in the network will also help you get in touch with parents in your province/territory who are concerned about child care issues and want to link up with other parents and child care advocates.

The network is just one of Parent Voices' outreach initiatives. These activities are about connecting parents with other parents, supporting opportunities for learning more about provincial/territorial/federal child care issues through the web pages (www.parentvoices.ca) and making sure parent perspectives are an important component of child care advocacy activities and campaigns.

The Parents' Network

Parent Voices brings together parents who are working for the right of all children to access a quality child care system – a child care system that is publicly funded, regulated, affordable and welcoming to all children regardless of their abilities/disabilities.

In several provinces and territories, many parents are working closely with others in local activities. Parents are adding their advocacy voices by sending e-mails and writing to elected representatives; writing letters to newspapers; attending town hall meetings and community forums; and calling into radio talk shows to speak out about child care.

In each province and territory where we have established links with parents, Parent Voices has identified one or more representatives to the Network. Four Parent Reps recently participated in the CCAAC Cross-Country Check Up, Council of Child Care Advocates meetings and held a Parents' Network meeting. We have developed terms of reference to

outline the responsibilities and opportunities for the Parents' Network Reps and the CCAAC.

For more information about the Parents' Network, be sure to contact Project Consultant Dianne Goldberg at info@parentvoices.ca.

Parents speak out about child care

"Canada must have a national child care strategy because it's the right thing to do for Canadians. I know parents want it and our children deserve it."

Excerpt from CBC Commentary on the need for a publicly supported child care system, by Sharon Gregson, Simon Fraser University Child Care Society, Burnaby, BC.

"The quality of care for our children is paramount to the future economic and social success of our nation. Child care is a shared responsibility. It is time that all governments showed leadership to support the early years of our children."

From a pre-budget letter in the Guelph, ON Mercury, by Sheri Hincks, Chair, University of Guelph Child Care and Learning Centre Parents Advisory Council

"Presently, in New Brunswick, approximately 10% of children aged 0-12 and only 5% of infants have access to licensed child care services. Parents need to be able to choose within a quality framework. After all, our children deserve no less. Quality child care experiences for children in Canada shouldn't be a matter of luck."

From post-budget statement, by Parents for Quality Care, Moncton, N.B. Jody Dallaire, spokesperson

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