

Parent Voices

Write a letter for child care now!

Parent Voices, a two-year parent advocacy project sponsored by the CCAAC, is encouraging parents to make the case to government for a comprehensive child care plan and federal funding for child care programs and services.

“Parents need to let the federal government know that they want the government to make child care a priority,” said Dianne Goldberg, project consultant. Parent Voices recently put together a letter-writing kit for parents to use. The kit is one of a number of useful resources, tools, links and advocacy information available on the project’s web page, www.childcareadvocacy.ca.

“There are options for parents to write their own letters or sign prepared ones to Prime Minister Chrétien, Finance Minister John Manley and their MP,” Goldberg said. “We’re asking parents to send a message about what access to high quality, affordable child care means to them and their families.”

Parents and other advocates are also being encouraged to spread the word to others. “The kit can be downloaded, so it can be distributed wherever parents gather,” said Goldberg. “Libraries and schools, and child care, resource and community centres are all good places to either distribute the kit or put an item in a newsletter or on a bulletin board.”

Since its official launch in the spring, Parent Voices has been working on outreach initiatives aimed at creating a pan-Canadian parent network. Contacts with child care groups and parents have already been made in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, and other regional linkages are in the works. Advocacy tools, briefs, letters, articles, federal and regional activities and contact information can be found on the Parent Voices web page. Check for updates and new resources especially developed for parent advocates as the project work progresses.

Use of the Web pages and the Internet will be the main way the project will help parents come together to develop strategies, share information and learn about breaking child care news. An e-mail broadcast list is being developed for quick dissemination of information.

To be added to the e-mail list, and/or to obtain copies of the letter-writing kit contact: info@parentvoices.ca. Copies of the kit can also be requested through: CCAAC, 323 Chapel Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7Z2, (613) 594-3196.

Parent Voices: Making the Case for Child Care is funded by the Social Development Partnerships Program of Human Resources Development Canada.

December 2002