

Child Care Policy: Making the Connections

Winter, 2004/05

A new Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) project will support families, caregivers and other community members to better understand and comment on the implications of child care policy and financing arrangements. The project, *Making the Connections*,* is particularly relevant now that the federal government has made a commitment to work with its provincial and territorial counterparts to build a pan-Canadian early learning and child care system.

“Research and experience from other jurisdictions tell us that that it will take a combination of effective public policy and substantial public investment to bring this system about,” said Project Director Lynell Anderson, a BC-based Certified General Accountant and child care advocate. “The project supports a cross-government commitment to informing Canadians by improving public accountability and transparency.”

The project will provide popularized reports based on provincial and territorial public data on child care, interpret public policy development and actions, measure progress, and use this and other public information to support further development of quality child care services consistent with CCAAC principles. Since federal investments in child care have increased over the last four years and are expected to rise further, the project will emphasize improved understanding of child care financing arrangements.

Funded by the federal government’s Social Development Partnerships Program, *Making the Connections* will also:

- Develop a framework for analysis of child care policy and investments.
- Provide information to support regional partners in using the framework.
- Hold a forum to bring together representatives from different jurisdictions to provide input into the process and learn from each other.

“We’re looking forward to working with Lynell on this project”, said CCAAC Board Chairperson Debra Mayer. “Lynell has worked with community groups, governments, and businesses for over 20 years, and has developed specific expertise in child care finances and related policy development.”

Making the Connections enhances the CCAAC’s long history of working with groups across the country that are committed to child care. “By engaging community groups, we hope to increase Canadians’ involvement in building our early learning and child care system,” Mayer said. “Another important project goal is to strengthen CCAAC’s work with federal, provincial and territorial governments as our pan-Canadian system develops.”

* This project does not include participation from Quebec.