



Chairperson's Report AGM June 2021

I would like to begin by acknowledging the tremendous loss and pain felt across our province and our country regarding the discovery of unmarked graves at the Kamloops and Saskatchewan residential school sites. We mourn together and acknowledge that these findings mark only the beginning of the uncovering of evidence of the atrocities and criminal acts that occurred at Residential Schools to First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples of Canada. We ask all members of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC to examine and re-examine the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. Reflect and act on these recommendations by calling on government to implement all 94 Calls to Action and for all of us to implement action into our own lives.

To say this has been an exceptional year would be an understatement. At our last AGM, the pandemic was still in its early days. Now, a year later, we find ourselves coming out a little into the light. Time will tell how our communities emerge and settle in to our new “normal”. One thing is certain. The pandemic clearly demonstrated how essential child care services are to the social and economic fibre of our country. Canadians from coast to coast to coast saw firsthand the pitfalls of for-profit provision of care, both to children and seniors. For decades we shared the research that clearly shows how quality care is more likely achieved in non –profit or public systems of care. If something good comes out of the pandemic tragedy, we hope it is to make us all understand better that profit has no place in the caring sector.

With the commitment of \$30 billion dollars for child care from the federal government, our optimism for the future is renewed. We stand on the precipice of the development of the first social program (in a generation) as we look to the development of the bilateral agreements. For some of us the commitment has endured over 4 decades, and the increased energy brought to our Board through new advocates has renewed our hope and strengthened our commitment to finally see this done. And, we must be vigilant as our provincial government has continued to fund the expansion of the for-profit child care sector. Truthfully, they are addressing some of the pieces – wage enhancement, legislation, move to the Ministry of Education and the creation of more spaces. But they seem to flounder on building the system. Parents need more \$10aDay sites across the province and educators need fair compensation, through a competitive wage grid. We urge the BC government to get it right!

Since last summer, the CCCABC Board has been busy with several projects. We all became more proficient in Zoom meetings as well as using the Slack app for Board work and discussion. Our CCCABC web site was redesigned with a new look and easier navigation.

Wage Grid Project

In June 2020, in partnership with ECEBC, we completed our Wage Grid project. The report highlights the necessity for the BC government “to develop and implement a province wide, publicly funded, competitive ECE wage grid.” Many thanks to Lynell Anderson, Rebecca Haber and Michelle Sing for this

important work as well as to the Muttart Foundation and the YWCA Metro Vancouver for funding and in-kind support.

2020 Provincial Election In October 2020 we engaged with CCCABC members regarding the upcoming provincial election. Our “BC Election Starting Place” released in September called on government to:

1. Move NOW to significant expansion of the \$10aDay child care programs across BC
2. Implement a Wage Grid for BC’s early childhood educators starting at \$26/hr.
3. Use public funds to build child care spaces that are PUBLIC ASSETS just like schools.

We took out full page ads in the Vancouver Sun and Province.

National Advocacy

CCCABC supports, through joint membership and collaboration, Child Care Now (Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada). As opportunities for new bilateral agreements arise, CCCABC has been working closely with Child Care Now through strategy discussions and support of their plan; Affordable Child Care For All. Thanks to Morna Ballytyne, Executive Director for her leadership as we forge a pathway to building a system of child care services that are affordable, accessible, high quality and publicly funded/managed/delivered.

REDI work (Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion)

Our work funded by the federal WAGE (Women and Gender Equality) continues. The purpose of the project – “All members of CCCABC leadership will work together to address the personal, interpersonal, organization and systemic barriers to an equitable future for our team, our work and our vision.” Through this process, we have expanded our lens of examination of our internal and external policies... are they supportive? Racist? Do they perpetuate colonization? Exclude rather than Include? We have revamped a number of policies including HR (e.g. hiring of consultants), honoraria, . etc.

The Coalition of Child Care Transitional Board Responsibilities acknowledges that while the current Board becomes educated and responsive to the work of decolonization, we need to put a temporary pause on electing or appointing new Directors. As we learn how important it is to make the implicit explicit, we need to do the deep work of examining our organizational structure. The Board is working with consultants to develop a good path forward.

During 2021, we have begun learning more about the diverse characteristics of our supporters to ensure that CCCABC is meeting their needs.

We have shared our support for the Land and Water Keepers, groups promoting REDI principles and others who work toward social justice, through public statements, support to campaigns and sharing news from other organizations with our membership.

Huge thanks to Jada-Gabrielle Pape whose leadership helps guide us through this important work..

Thank you to our funders

Special thanks to the following organizations for your funding support:

WAGE – Women and Gender Equality Gov't of Canada, Vancouver Foundation, Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), City of Vancouver, Muttart Foundation , Vancity, BCGEU , Feminists Deliver, Health Sciences Association, Public Sector Alliance of Canada, CUPE

We also appreciate receiving a generous estate donation and thank all the individuals who supported us through donations.

\$10aDay

As we gather today, we note that this year marks the 10th anniversary of when the “Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning” - better known as our \$10aDay plan for Child Care - was first launched. With our ECEBC partners, we just released “A RoadMap for Child Care in BC” (www.10aday.ca/roadmap), which provides the provincial government with the details needed to deliver on their 2020 election commitments in alignment with the popular \$10aDay Plan:

1. Bring \$10aDay Child Care to more families
2. Provide universal access to before and after school care on school grounds
3. Ensure Early Childhood Educators are a well supported profession.
4. Move the responsibility for Child Care to the Ministry of Education
5. Protect Child Care in law
6. Create a new Child Care Capital program.

And governments must invest in culturally safe child care for Indigenous, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Recently, we lamented a poor commitment in the BC provincial budget, and we celebrated an historic child care investment in the federal budget (\$30 billion over 5 years for an average 50% reduction in parent fees by December 2022 and an average of \$10aDay by 2026).

I'd like to take this time to acknowledge the innovation and tenacity demonstrated by many School Boards and municipalities across the province who are engaged in creating a system to meet the needs of folks in their communities.

Working with the ECEBC Board of Directors we updated and renewed our Partnership Agreement reflecting changes and recommitting to the work of \$10aDay.

We wrote numerous letters to Federal and Provincial Ministers, to the Prime Minister and Premier regarding \$10aDay and more recently our demand to see all 94 TRC Calls to Action implemented.

Thank you to all who participated in our Action Campaigns, sending thousands of emails to MLA's and MP's.

Thank you

To our membership for your support and confidence in us. The work of our organization is a collective contribution of many talented and dedicated people.

Thank you to all of our consultants who help us design reports, keep our web site up to date, lead us through difficult discussions, contribute to research and so much more.

Thank you to our Spokesperson Sharon Gregson who shares our message with the rest of the world. You are our heart and our voice. The tremendous gains we've realized would not have happened without you. Together we are making history.

Thank you to our financial whiz and researcher Lynell Anderson. You carry our wisdom and conscience. The tremendous gains we've realized would not have happened without you. Together we are making history.

To our 2020 Board members and Friends of the Board: Ruth Bancroft, Gyda Chud, Shelley Sheppard, Maria Cagnelli, Darcelle Cottons, Caroline Kent, Mab Oloman, Kate Spence, Danielle Hollander, Sheila Davidson Rita Chudnovsky, Sara Langlois, Katie Barthel and Kristen Keighley, thank you for your commitment, your energy, your friendship, and wisdom. The tremendous gains we've realized would not have happened without you. Together we are making history.

Respectfully submitted

June 28, 2021

Susan Harney

Chairperson