

COMMENTS ON CHILD CARE SPACES REPORT

- Kids First Parent Association of Canada - 604-291-0088 www.kidsfirstcanada.org

Child Care Spaces Recommendations

Supporting Canadian Children & Families:

Addressing the Gap Between The Supply and Demand for High Quality Child Care

Report from the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Government of Canada's Child Care Spaces Initiative

whole report

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/publications_resources/social_policy/mac_report/page00.shtml

1-INCLUSIVE DEFINITION OF CHILD CARE AT BEGINNING IGNORED THROUGHOUT

THE definition of child care in the report IS VERY INCLUSIVE - parental care listed at top, licensed daycare at bottom. However parental care seems to be excluded/totally ignored in the rest of the report from concept of 'child care'.

chart of 'child care' types

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/publications_resources/social_policy/mac_report/page07.shtml

2-LABOUR FORCE BUSINESS IMPERATIVE EMPHASIZED

labour force emphasis from business - business ALWAYS WANTS sees a labour shortage and wants a large labour pool to control wage/condition demands (btw most mums do not look for jobs in construction!)

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/publications_resources/social_policy/mac_report/page08.shtml

3-a pro-parental care item from report

from page

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/publications_resources/social_policy/mac_report/page12.shtml

How about this GOOD IN PRINCIPLE (pro-parent care) recommendation for EI (which many many mums are not eligible for):

"* Extend the length of the benefits period to 18 months from the current 12 months, so parents can place their child in toddler care.

* Consider extending the leave incrementally over time up to two and half years as well as increasing the income replacement rate. "

4-LABOUR POOL PARADOX PROBLEM HINTED AT?

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/publications_resources/social_policy/mac_report/page15.shtml

"The Committee recognizes that one of the biggest challenges in expanding and enhancing child care spaces will be related to Human Resources. The current shortage of qualified child care staff in Canada could seriously hamper efforts to expand the supply of spaces."

THIS SECTION DEMONSTRATES THE IDIOTRY OF INCREASING LABOUR SUPPLY BY FORCED LABOUR FORCE FOR MUMS:

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH DAYCARE STAFF TO WORK AT REPLACING THE SUPPOSEDLY 'NON WORKING' MUMS

OBVIOUSLY THE REAL GAME IS, AS THE OECD STATES: 'PROFESSIONALIZATION OF SERVICES' - IE TRANSFERRING THE WORK TO THE PAID/TAXED/PROFIT-PRODUCING SECTOR OUT OF THE NON-COMMODIFIED LOVE/DUTY/FAMILY SECTOR

5-REPORT ADMITS AND IGNORES 'DEMAND' DATA DEBATE AND LACK OF REAL DATA

-THE TITLE MAKES A HUGE ASSUMPTION IT DOES NOT PROVE - OR EVEN DISPROVES:
"Addressing the Gap Between The Supply and Demand for High Quality Child Care"

page 12

"Demand for child care is increasing¹³ from parents but also from employers who....Despite increases in the supply of child care, the demand continues to surpass it."

no evidence provided supports contention that daycare demand surpasses supply

SEE footnote:

"¹³ Committee members note that there is currently a debate in Canada concerning the accuracy of data regarding child care demand."

p22 - admission that they are fabricating spin on supply vs demand:

"...there is no regular source of comprehensive information on child care in Canada either in terms of demand (e.g. parental use and preferences) or supply (e.g. current care available)."

6-DEMAND BASED ON LAB FORCE SHOWN TO BE USELESS IN FOOTNOTE WI DEFINITION OF LABOUR FORCE

Lab Force "WORK" - foot note provides REAL definition – THIS WAS INCLUDED ONLY AFTER INTENSE INSISTENCE FROM THE ONE INFORMED CTTE MEMBER - IT IS A FIRST - THAT IS OUR 2 BITS WORTH I GUESS!!

p11 foot note to 'demand' section:

"¹⁰ The labour force is defined by Statistics Canada as the civilian non-institutional population, 15 years of age and over who, during the Labour Force Survey reference week, were employed or unemployed. Employed persons are those who, during the reference week: (a) did any work at all at a job or business, that is, paid work in the context of an employer-employee relationship, or self-employment. It also includes unpaid family work, which is defined as unpaid work contributing directly to the operation of a farm, business or professional practice owned and operated by a related member of the same household; or (b) had a job but were not at work due to factors such as own illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, vacation, labour dispute or other reasons (excluding persons on layoff, between casual jobs, and those with a job to start at a future date)."

7-DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION OF USE OF DAYCARE DATA - WHO HAS AN "ACCOUNTABILITY" PROBLEM??

P 12

"The share of children in Quebec's day care centres rose to 52% in 2003, almost double the national average of 28%.¹⁴"

FOOTNOTE

"¹⁴ Bushnik, T. (2006) Child Care in Canada. Statistics Canada. pp. 17"

THAT FIGURE IS INCORRECTLY STATED - IE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED AS USUAL - THAT IS % OF KIDS IN 'NON-PARENTAL CHILDCARE' WHO ARE IN DAYCARE CENTRES - IT'S 14.9% OF CAN

KIDS 6 MOS-5 YRS IN DAYCARE CENTRES, P97 OF BUSHNIK Stat Can STUDY, QUE 34.72% (P45 DATA x P 62 DATA)

HERE IS THE ACTUAL QUOTE FROM BUSHNIK/STATS CAN REPORT P 17 -SEE WHAT THEY LEFT OUT - IT DEMONSTRATES THE INTENTIONAL NATURE OF THE MIS-STATEMENT - IE THAT IT IS DELIBERATE DECEPTION:

"the proportion of children in daycare centres in Quebec rose to 52% of children in non-parental care in 2002-2003. This was almost double the national average of 28%." [EMPHASIS ADDED]

8-CONCERN FOR "HIGH QUALITY" CHILD CARE WITHOUT DEFINITION OF THAT/FALSE ASSUMPTION THAT GOV REGULATION ASSURES QUALITY

the report MENTIONS quality OBSESSIVELY - 70 TIMES - BUT does not define high quality and fails to mention that GOV REGULATION DOES NOT ASSURE QUALITY: the majority of licensed daycare in Canada:

"is of minimal to mediocre quality"

-You Bet I Care! 2 http://action.web.ca/home/cfwwb/attach/ybic_report_2.pdf p. ix-x
and

"The majority of children age 0-12 in centres do not receive adequate amounts or types of experiences to promote language and cognitive development"

-Gillian Doherty presentation "Quality & Predictors of Quality in Canadian Child Care" Centre for Excellence for Early Childhood Development, Regina June 2005 http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca/documents/Gillian_Doherty_ANG.pdf p.4

73% OF DAYCARE IN QUE FOUND TO BE LOW QUALITY: 61% 'MINIMAL' 12% WORSE THAN MINIMAL - RATIOS OF 1 STAFF TO 8 1 YR OLDS A BIG FACTOR

Quality Counts IRPP Vol 11 #5 Dec 2005 <http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol11no5.pdf>

THE US NICHD DATA FOUND HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE MOST OFTEN WAS PROVIDED BY FATHERS AND GRANDPARENTS:

"The highest level of positive caregiving was provided by in home caregivers, including fathers and grandparents, caring for only 1 child, closely followed by home based arrangements with relatively few children per adult. The least positive caregiving was found in center based care with higher ratios of children to adults."

-Characteristics and quality of child care for toddlers and preschoolers. Applied Developmental Science, 4. <http://secc.rti.org/abstracts.cfm?abstract=17>

STAFF:CHILD RATIOS -KEY TO QUALITY PROBLEM -ARE NOT MENTIONED AT ALL
QUALITY MEASURES MENTIONED AND NOT PROVIDED

P15

"...if the project met practice-based quality standards²¹ following an assessment by experts trained in quality assurance. " [emphasis added]

SEE FOOTNOTE

²¹ While widely accepted national quality standards for child care do not currently exist in Canada, consideration could be given to using quality standards issued in 2001 by the Canadian Child Care Federation and/or the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council in the spring of 2006." [emphasis added]