

Ontario Coalition for
Better Child Care

ANNUAL REPORT

2004



Who We Are

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) was founded in 1981 to advocate for universally accessible, quality, non-profit regulated child care in the province of Ontario.

Our membership includes representatives from education, health care, labour, child-welfare, injury prevention, rural, First Nations, Francophone, social policy, anti-poverty, professional, student and women's organizations. We serve community based child care programs, local child care coalitions and support the activities of eight Child Care Action Networks (CCANs) across the province.

The Coalition is a public awareness organization and a non-partisan political action group. We work to bring the benefits of early learning and care to the attention of the public, and policy makers. The work of the OCBCC covers a wide range of activities, including:

- Monitoring provincial child care policy and legislation
- Lobbying for changes and improvements
- Developing policy alternatives for government consideration to improve the quality, accessibility and management of child care services
- Developing books, manuals, fact sheets and news bulletins on child care policy and operations for use by child care programs, early childhood education training programs, parents and the general public
- Conducting public information campaigns through written material, videos, public service announcements, public speaking and by working with the media
- Conducting and commissioning research
- Providing a variety of services to assist community based child care programs
- Participating in an array of advisory committees, task forces, community planning bodies and child care development associations

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ONTARIO COALITION
FOR BETTER
CHILD CARE

Table of Contents

Who we are	1
Letter from the President	3
The OCBCC Team	4
Briefs, Reports and Submissions	5
OCBCC Activities	
Child Care Action Networks	6
Friday Phone Fun	7
Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day	7
Working with coalition partners	8
Special Projects, Issues	
Proxy Pay Equity Settlement	9
Provincial Election 2003	11
Municipal Elections 2003	12
Spring Lobby of MPPs	12
Report on the status of regulated child care	13
Woman Power and Politics	14
Financial Statements	16
Membership Information	19

NOTE: This annual report covers the period
of April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

Letter from the President

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care has successfully weathered a difficult year. At about this time last year we had to make a very difficult decision to re-structure and reduce staff. We had to trim the work plan and we had to put just about every ounce of energy we had into securing funding and getting ourselves in good financial order.

We have much to be proud of. We have charted a road to a rosier financial picture. We continue to ensure the Coalitions' position is central to the public discourse on early learning and care. We continue our work on the ground with the Child Care Action Networks (CCANs). I want to thank all the board members and in particular Kira and Sue for the tireless commitment and the hard work that made this possible. We couldn't have done what we did without the staff!

Though incredible staff time has been required to regain our financial health the OCBCC has continued to respond to events and make our position known. We were active with our coalition partners during the provincial elections and supported the lobbying efforts of the CCANs. We submitted briefs and made presentations to the federal and provincial standing committees on finance and took part in provincial budget roundtables. We are currently working with the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) to lobby federal candidates on child care and to work in communities to make it an election issue.

We involved three more trade unions in the third annual child care worker and early childhood educator appreciation day. We held the third CCAN conference, *Woman Power and Politics*, in Ottawa. We worked with CUPE and the OFL to highlight the crisis with the "Child Care and the Municipal 2004 Budget" report. We have held formal and informal meetings with the new Liberal government. We have attended national and provincial forums and events to insert the position of the coalition in policy discussions. We have also been involved in an internal discussion that provided the framework for the OCBCC – 2004 Policy Paper. We have been out there and visible.

Despite these gallant efforts and our many achievements over the past year it is important to acknowledge that the decisions we undertook have come at a cost to different parts of our work plan. I believe the Child Care Action Networks are an important part of our work and I know that nurturing them requires significant time and energy. The time consuming work of building the base of our organizations often gets pushed to the side as more immediate demands take over. I want to flag the need to make increased staffing a top priority as soon as the budget allows.

I believe the political strength of the Coalition will grow in relation to how relevant and visible we remain in communities across this province. Governments have the facts about the benefits of high quality child care. We have made the case! It will be through the work of the CCANs that we will build the ground swell of support for government action on child care.

I have great expectations for the OCBCC in the coming year. We've got all the right ingredients to again become a force to be reckoned with and one day in the not-so-distant future we will witness the formation of a comprehensive universal accessible system of early care and education!

Shellie Bird,
President

The OCBCC Team

Council Members 2003-2004

Executive Members

Bird, Shellie - President
Buffett, Barbara - Dryden Children's Res. Centre
DeGras, Cheryl - Early Learning Centre, U of T
Dobusz, Diane - Pat Shultz Child Care Centre
Edelson, Miriam - OPSEU
Heineck, Kira* - CUPE 2484-25 Sub Local Rep
Hughes, Colin* - Campaign 2000
Hunt, Victoria - OECTA
Johnson, Kathy** - CUPE Ontario
Leblanc, Nancy - Le Petit Chaperon Rouge
McCaffrey, Vivian - ETFO
McGuire, Janice - Generations Day Care
O'Neill, Diane - Treasurer
Paulekat, Peter* - CUPE Ontario
Rafferty, Sinéad - General Member
Sceviour, Carrol Anne - Ontario Fed. of Labour
Simpson, Libby - General Member
Walter, Lisa*** - OPSEU

Council Members

Barata, Pedro - Campaign 2000
Boyer, Heather - Canadian Auto Workers CC
Crews, Bette Jean - Ontario Fed. of Agriculture
Desjardins, Lucille - Muskoka Family Focus
Friendly, Martha - CRRU, U of T
Jones, Jack** - OSSTF
Jordison, Sarah - Centro Clinton Day Care
Kelley, Heather - IAMAW
Lewis, Michael - United Steelworkers of America
Mercer, Jane - Toronto Coalition for Better CC
Nash, Peggy - Canadian Auto Workers
Nichols, Cathie - SONG
Oliver-Linton, Cheryl - Learning Enrichment Foundation
Rosner, Sherry* - OSSTF
Roy, Yvan** - Ontario Teachers' Federation
Stodart, Lesley - United Steelworkers of America

* Resigned mid - term

** came on board mid term

*** came on board and resigned mid term

Policy and Research Committee

Bird, Shellie
Colley, Sue
DeGras, Cheryl
Friendly, Martha
Kass, Jamie
Kremyr, Eve
McCuaig, Kerry
McGuire, Janice

Staff

Kira Heineck, Executive Director
Sue Parker, Administration and
Membership Coordinator

The OCBCC is pleased to host students from the Early Childhood Education programs at George Brown College and Ryerson University.

The OCBCC gratefully acknowledges the support of the following funding partners in 2003/2004: The Trillium Foundation, Status of Women Canada and the Atkinson Foundation.

Briefs, Reports & Submissions

Early Childhood Education and Care – the wave of the future. 2003 Federal Pre-Budget Recommendations. Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, November 7, 2003.

Making the right choice: Investing in high quality early learning and child care in Ontario. A Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, Government of Ontario, February 2, 2004.

Report on the status of regulated child care – 2004 Municipal Budgets. OCBCC, CUPE and OFL, April 2004.

An action plan on early learning and care for Ontario’s new “Education” Premier. Published as an Op-Ed in the Toronto Star, November 3, 2003.

Current federal funding available for early learning and child care in Ontario (with the exception of spending for Aboriginal ELC). OCBCC backgrounder - April 2004.

Woman Power and Politics. TCBCC & OCBCC, July 2003.

Bargaining for Work and Life. Alice de Wolff, OCBCC, OFL, CLC and the Feminist Political Economy Network, Graduate Women’s Studies Program, York University. November 2003.

Provincial Election Kit

Municipal Election Kit

How to Make Your MPP Your Ally in 7 Simple Steps. OCBCC, January 2004.

Child Care Watch – bi-monthly newsletter.

OCBCC Activities

Child Care Action Networks

The Child Care Action Networks (CCAN) are the foundation the OCBCC's team across Ontario. Currently, they exist in: Windsor, Niagara Region, Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Peterborough, and Ottawa.

The CCANs work to:

- Share information and advocacy success and strategies both within and across communities
- Facilitate the development of a greater understanding of the issues affecting child care including monitoring and evaluating the status of child care services in Ontario
- Enable local community members to articulate their views on early learning and care services and strengthen the child care community's ability to respond and advocate for child care
- Facilitate analysis and responses to new policy and government funding initiatives
- Organize and support local action to encourage local and provincial governments to preserve quality child care services in Ontario
- Assist regional representatives in organizing local discussions and advocacy
- Provide a forum for networking and working together to effect policy change.

The CCANs are action-oriented groups and participate together to create the provincial and national solutions that best address their local needs. They have been involved in numerous public federal budget and throne speech watches, Child Care Worker Appreciation Day, and in local activities with their own municipal governments. There were also two CCAN conferences in the last year, one in Sudbury and one in Ottawa. Participants enjoy wonderful weekends, practicing important political advocacy skills, increasing their knowledge of different techniques and approaches and participating in helping the OCBCC design more and better tools and resources.

The OCBCC is strengthened by the growing reach and stability of the CCAN network across Ontario. The current political reality of "downloading" which has left so much of the responsibility for the delivery of child care with the municipalities in Ontario, while at the same time handicapping them with little funding – or ability to generate more funding – makes the need for a strong CCAN network extremely important. It is at the municipal level today where effective lobbying can take place and where meaningful changes in the short-term are possible. This reality makes the CCAN network crucial to ensuring that the OCBCC is the best we can be as a provincial advocacy voice for better child care. The CCAN network is also essential for achieving our provincial and national child care goals as we build a campaign from the ground up.

The OCBCC and the CCANs gratefully acknowledge the support from *Status of Women Canada* and *The Atkinson Foundation* and thank them for their generous commitment to the CCAN network.

OCBCC Activities

Friday Phone Fun

Every Friday, MPs and MPPs return to their ridings in order to stay in touch with their communities. Therefore the OCBCC organizes our members to phone their MPs and MPPs each Friday. Participants sign up for weekly reminders, which are sent out each week along with campaign updates and messages for the week.

Friday Phone Fun (FPF) first started in 2002 when the coalition mobilized to stop the budget cuts to child care in Ontario proposed by the Tory government. We continue to use it on a regular basis and have 100s of subscribers, most of whom in turn pass FPF along their own networks. FPF continues to be a success - we often hear of overwhelmed staff in MP and MPP offices who are getting too many phone calls!

Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

On November 5, 2003 we successfully celebrated, along with 10,000s of OCBCC members, our six union partners and over 80 municipalities that passed resolutions declaring the day the 3rd Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day across Ontario. This was an important day during which parents, boards, supervisors, community members and politicians showed their thanks and appreciation for the skills and dedication of those working in child care. Some towns, like Sudbury and Peterborough even had their celebrations reported in the media.

The day before, on November 4th, the OCBCC and CUPE Ontario held a news conference inside Queen's Park. We were joined by Emily Noble, President of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario as well. We went to take the message to our new government that they can show their respect for child care workers and ECEs by properly funding the child care sector, including funding for wages and training. As Sid Ryan, CUPE Ontario President said that day: "Child care workers and early childhood educators do incredibly important work, but are some of the lowest paid workers in our society. The Liberals can best support quality, accessible, licensed child care by increasing wage subsidies."

Special thanks to all who participated, and to our labour partners for sponsoring the day:

CUPE Ontario Division
National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFEO)
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)
Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)

Working with coalition partners

Throughout the course of every year OCBC board members and staff have many opportunities to work with coalition partners in a variety of ways, including sitting on boards, participating in conferences, speaking engagements, special projects and campaigns.

The following is a list of activities the coalition engaged in with our partners. Any omissions are regretted as we have enjoyed and valued our work with each and every partner:

- The People's Charter process, Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL)
- OFL 2003 Convention - Toronto
- OFL Women's Committee Retreat – Niagara Falls - 2004
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario Convention – Hamilton 2003
- CUPE 2484 Executive
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union 2003 Convention - Toronto
- School House Play Care of Durham Region – AGM – 2003
- Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Women's Conference – Port Elgin – 2003
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) – Toronto Local Women's Conference – 2003
- Mothercraft – class presentation
- Ryerson University – class presentations
- Southern Ontario Newspapers Guild (SONG) – Executive meeting presentation
- ETFO Upper Grand local – Executive meeting presentation
- Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care – Board Member
- Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) – Board Member and working on various campaigns together, such as Memo to Martin Campaign 2000 – partner organization on Community Indicators Project
- Equal Pay Coalition
- Ontario Coalition for Social Justice – Steering Committee member
- Ontario Alternative Budget – Working Group

Proxy pay equity settlement – May 2003

In April 2001 five unions - the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA), the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) - and four women representing proxy pay equity sectors - a registered nurse, a health care aide, a child care worker and a developmental services worker - launched a Charter challenge of the Ontario Government's decision to deny pay equity funding to women in mostly female public sector workplaces.

On May 23, 2003 they reached an agreement with the Ontario government that will provide \$414 million of funding for proxy pay equity payments for public sector women workers. Now, after years of advocating and legal action, 100,000 women working in proxy pay equity sectors, if they are organized in a union or not, including child care, previously denied their right to equal pay for work of equal value, will get increased wages. While this is a welcomed event, and also a large amount of money, it falls short of what is actually owed to women and the community agencies and child care centres they work for.

This settlement money is intended for these women workers as it answers the claim brought on behalf of different sectors in which women are being paid unfairly low wages. The claim asserted that the government was perpetuating wage-based gender discrimination. They did this by failing to fund on-going pay equity adjustments to workers in predominantly female workplaces. In 1995 the Tory government ended pay equity funding. This violates Section 15 of the Ontario Human Rights Charter. In 1996 one union, SEIU, won a Charter Challenge and forced the Tories to make one more pay equity payment in 1997. Then, in 1998, the government cut off funding again, leaving public sector women's wages at one-third of the pay equity amount they were entitled to.

One key objective of this new settlement is to fund pay equity adjustments *still owing* since January 1st 1999. Its other key objective is to provide funding for current and future pay equity adjustments until wages achieve the pay equity standard.

The total amount of funding secured is \$414 million and will be distributed over the next 3 years. The 2003-4 additional base funding will be allocated by December 31, 2003. Funding for remaining 2003-4 for current and retroactive pay equity liabilities will start no later than March 31, 2004. Funding for the 2004-5 and 2005-6 fiscal years will be provided to employers as part of the regular budgeting process.

Employers must pass these funds onto their employees no later than 60 days after they receive it from the Government. The agreement also includes accountability measures to insure that proxy employers comply with their pay equity obligations and that the funding required for any such adjustments is properly reflected in budget requests.

Unfortunately, this settlement has one important flaw. Under this settlement the Tories agreed to fund retroactive pay equity adjustments only to agencies or centres that could establish they had incurred outstanding liabilities as a result of making these pay equity adjustments, or as a result of

Special Projects, Issues

not making them since 1999. For programs and agencies that met their pay equity adjustment during this period “outstanding liability” may be defined simply as a bank loan.

The consequence of this is that child care program that actually did meet their legal obligations to proxy pay equity and did so without taking out a bank loan, they may not receive any reimbursement for it now.

The coalition has tried to stay current with who is handling what in the new government on administering this settlement and making decisions on retroactive funding and feel there is still a chance that we can push the Liberals to define the term “liability” more broadly. For one thing this settlement is only a legal agreement – it is *not* a law. This means that the government can do more than they agreed to in its terms. We have also made it clear that: proxy pay equity is the only form of pay equity the government has pulled out of by not covering it with legislation and that this sends a terrible signal about their commitment to women’s equality as most proxy pay equity sector employees are women; and that employers who found a way to meet their pay equity obligations were doing what the government should have been doing in the first place and now they should be reimbursed for doing the government’s job.

We are also helping our members communicate to decision-makers the extent of the creative and heart-breaking things many had to do to find the money to meet their pay equity obligation and that they should count as liabilities and to demonstrate the long-term impact of maintaining these payments and what it will mean for centre’s or agency’s viability over the long run. Anything that a child care program did to cover the costs of pay equity adjustments to employees that jeopardizes the quality and/or future existence of their program should be accepted as an “outstanding liability.” Examples include:

- Using up reserve funds
- Taking out lines of credit (and bank loans)
- Eliminating staff positions, including supports for special needs children
- Eliminating or reducing benefit packages
- Not being able to retrofit playgrounds or build new jungle gyms
- Foregoing capital improvements
- Tightening food budgets
- Cutting back on program materials, supplies
- Ending field trips and other special activities
- Raising parent fees thereby making your program less affordable and less sustainable

There is no doubt that work remains to be done in achieving pay equity and in securing increased funding for proxy pay equity obligations. The previous Tory government tried twice to renege on its duties to fund public sector proxy pay equity – they lost a charter challenge in 1996 and made one payment after that. The current settlement only covers up to 2006 and we will continue to work with our partners via the Pay Equity Coalition to address what will happen after that.

Special Projects, Issues

Provincial Election 2003

The coalition and all our members worked day in and day out to get the child care vote mobilized across Ontario. After the vote was in many felt that we achieved an important victory in defeating the mean, unfriendly and stubborn Tory government that wreaked such havoc in child care.

A list of election activities includes:

Ottawa: At the beginning of the election over 20 child care and community living CUPE activists joined together to meet Ernie Eves' bus outside a radio show he was doing – one even called him on their cell phone and demanded he come outside and face the voters! And Shellie Bird spoke with the media present about child care, getting our concerns in the papers early on.

Later on, on a number of occasions, the Ottawa child care community was active at all candidates' debates – hosting one just on children – and during Howard Hampton's press conference on child care – great media coverage over all!

Niagara: In Niagara, child care folks papered St. Catharines and other towns with our window signs and talked to all the candidates about what is needed for better child care in Ontario. They took the time to talk to Liberal candidates specifically about the real problems in their platform and our concerns – way to go Niagara!

Windsor: 100s of window signs were distributed, and the WECAN was very active with CAW Women's Committees, taking child care issues to their forums and participating in many all candidates' debates – and in talking to the media about child care – thanks to Heather Boyer in particular for her work with the Windsor Star and other radio interviews.

Sudbury: Countless window signs and flyers went out across the Sudbury area into 3 ridings. Our CCAN dynamos went to every all candidates' debate; wrote to candidates to gather info on their child care positions, then turned the answers into a local fact sheet. Some centres even helped parents to vote by offering free child care.

Guelph: In Guelph, an excellent letter-to-the-editor was published by our friend Sherri Hinks – you can find a copy on our website through the "Child Care in the News" link.

Thunder Bay: Again, 100s of window signs and flyers were distributed and posted, and our fearless CCANers went to the debates, forums and reached each candidate personally, again challenging the Liberal candidates on their troubling platform.

Together we also hosted public Leaders' Debate watches on September 23rd across Ontario. We had good turn out and media coverage in Toronto and Ottawa, and good community turn out in Sudbury and Durham Region and a newspaper interview in Windsor.

Finally, about 20 OCBCers in Toronto participated on September 22nd in a series of actions meant to bring the child care issue to the attention of the three party leaders. We went with big

Special Projects, Issues

“I’m voting for child care” signs and 3 questions to each leader: Eves, McGuinty and Hampton. Our first stop was the NDP press conference, where we were welcomed and our concerns addressed by Mr. Hampton. Next we went to a Liberal event and greeted McGuinty as he came off the bus – Pedro Barata, one of our Council members, asked him about his plans for regulated child care and McGuinty’s answers were again wishy-washy, sounding as if he was promising to deliver “a mix of both” regulated and unregulated child care. Lastly, we went to an Eves campaign event where we were quickly swarmed by his supporters and their big PC signs. Then, because the event was on private property – a hotel in Markham – and in one last example of the typical Tory style of confrontation and intimidation we were the ones kicked out by security. There was some coverage of these events in the Toronto media the next day.

Municipal Elections 2003

The municipal elections across Ontario followed quickly after the provincial election. The OCBCC worked fast to create a new municipal election kit and distribute it to members. Coalition members and CCANs held various events across Ontario and worked to put child care on the agenda in similar ways as described for the provincial election.

Spring 2004 Lobby of MPPs

In January the OCBCC began a campaign to lobby each and every Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). With so many new MPPs in Ontario after the fall 2003 election, we felt it was important to reach out to them in the beginning and talk to them about the realities and needs of regulated child care as soon as possible. We also supported members’ visits to returning MPPs. Our goal was to support community members and child care advocates in every riding, and we produced and distributed the lobby kit *How to Make Your MPP Your Ally in 7 Simple Steps*.

The response of our membership was enthusiastic with members volunteering to participate in 74 of the 101 ridings with sitting MPPs, allowing us to reach more MPPs than we have in a while. The response was also a good sign that energy and will remains in the child care community to engage in advocacy on behalf of better child care. As of this writing, 36 meeting report-back forms have been returned to the OCBCC. This means that we have met now with 36% of MPPs – over 1 in 3. There are also more meetings that have taken place but not yet reported on, or are scheduled to in June, making our contact rate event higher.

This lobby continues into 2004 as the government will sit until mid-June and resume in October. MPPs will also be available in their constituency offices in the interim months. The first year of a new government is a great time to bring child care and what’s at stake as Ontario continues to under value and under fund high quality, regulated and universally accessible child care to our MPPs’ attention. During June through September the OCBCC staff will also be able to offer increased support for those members who volunteered but have yet to set up their meeting. We are confident we will fulfill our goal of visiting at least 2/3 of the MPPs before Christmas.

Special Projects, Issues

Report on the status of regulated child care – 2004 Municipal Budgets

The OCBCC joined with CUPE Ontario, and the OFL to undertake an informal survey of twelve Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and two District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) in response to the news in early 2004 that two municipal child care centres in Stratford and Kenora were facing closure. These slated closures are the result of the 2004 municipal budget process. We were concerned and wanted to determine how widespread this was and, if necessary, raise this as an issue with the provincial government.

Municipal and college-based programs set important benchmarks for quality child care in Ontario. Municipal centres also play a vital role within the system by providing child care to service communities where it is not financially viable for the community-based sector. As well they enroll higher numbers of children with developmental and behavioral challenges. This is due to the high level of trained staff, adequate resources, facilities and equipment. Municipal programs are a critical component in the child care system for meeting the diverse needs of children and parents across Ontario.

Extensive research identifies key indicators that must be present for high-quality child care to exist. These indicators include: low adult/child ratios, consistent caregivers, small group size, well-trained and compensated staff, not-for-profit delivery, adequate funding, enforced regulatory standards and integration with community services. These indicators are found to exist more consistently where there is unionization and all these elements are found more consistently in municipal and college-based child care programs.

In carrying out this survey, phone contact was made with twenty-eight CMSMs and two DSSABs to request their participation in this survey. They include Cochrane, Windsor, Peel, Dryden, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Ottawa, Halton, Cornwall, Waterloo, Peterborough, Wellington North, Simcoe, Muskoka, Hawkesbury, London, Kingston, Guelph, Wallaceburg, Kenora, Deep River, Greenstone, Niagara, Hamilton, Sudbury, Brampton, Durham, Dryden.

This report is based on the returned surveys from twelve CMSMs and two DSSABs, including Kingston, Ottawa, Prescott-Russell, Toronto, Peterborough, Cochrane and Kenora DSSAB, Dryden, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Hamilton, Windsor, Waterloo and Durham.

The survey was also sent to OCBCC and CCAN representatives and CUPE municipal locals where they exist. It was felt this would allow the different perspectives of communities to be reflected in the findings. This additional data was incorporated as part of the fourteen locations in the report.

This informal survey confirmed our concern that regulated child care is reaching a crisis point that will see increasing erosion of quality programs and service levels. There is every indication that local governments will be unable to stop the erosion in their quality child care programs or maintain service levels without immediate support from the province. It is the proverbial “finger in the dyke” — nine years of provincial under funding has caught up. Local governments cannot sustain their child care systems alone and they cannot build upon them without provincial help.

Special Projects, Issues

The majority of Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) have exceeded provincial cost-share arrangements in their attempt to buffer their child care programs from provincial funding cuts and restraint. It is apparent this situation will cause problems over the coming municipal budget cycles if not addressed.

The report's recommendations to the Ontario Liberal government were to:

1. Immediately return to the legislated 80/20 cost share arrangement, making sure that provincial funding is available for 80% of municipal child care costs.
2. Ensure that the \$58 million earmarked for regulated child care in Ontario in 2004-2005 through the federal/provincial/territorial Multilateral Framework Agreement (MFA) flows to municipalities as quickly as possible, allowing them to address their Child Care Service Plans.
3. Designate ¾ of the \$192 million in federal dollars earmarked from 2004 -2005 Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) funding for regulated child care.
4. Replace, from provincial funds, the \$160 million lost from the annual provincial budget through cuts to regulated child care by the previous government.

We held a successful press conference with Sid Ryan (CUPE ON) and Wayne Samuelson (OFL) at Queen's Park in April to release this report. It was also then sent to every MPP, every mayor in Ontario and every labour council. The report caused a question to be asked in the House by NDP members Shelley Martel and Marilyn Churley. Minister Bountrogianni responded favourably, thanking us for the report and committing to work with us on implementing its recommendations.

Woman Power and Politics

Woman Power and Politics was produced by the OCBCC in partnership with the Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care. It is a guide for women on identifying and maximizing power in today's political systems. Through the lens of child care as it influences women's lives, *Woman Power & Politics* invites women to participate in politics, take opportunities and determine their future regarding areas such as education, poverty and domestic violence.

This book answers many of the questions about how government works. It guides women on getting or staying involved, and on understanding just where in our political systems women can maximize their power. It also reviews options for democratic reform that would provide women with more access to political power and defines different forms of advocacy, including a feminist approach to organizing.

Woman Power and Politics was well received by OCBCC members and coalition partners, with many acknowledging the need for a book like this in their communities and organizations. People felt strongly that the book and workshop will help their members prepare for participation and activism in the upcoming provincial, municipal and federal elections. 5000 copies of Woman Power & Politics have already been distributed across Ontario.

A second edition will be published in the summer of 2004 with updates after elections at all three levels of government and a French edition will be published as well.

Special Projects, Issues

Woman Power and Politics was launched in October at a successful, standing-room-only luncheon in Toronto. The keynote speaker was the Hon. Jean Augustine. Other speakers included Emily Noble, President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Jane Mercer, Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care and Nancy Leblanc, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (Francophone Representative).

Partners that made this book possible were Status of Women Canada, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Labour, the Canadian Auto Workers and the Canadian Benefits Consulting Group.

Financial Statements 03/04

Please note that full statements are available upon request.

Cowperthwaite Mehta

C H A R T E R E D A C C O U N T A N T S

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members,
Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

We have audited the statement of financial position of Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (incorporated as Better Child Care, Ontario Inc.) as at March 31, 2004 and the statement of operations and net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the coalition's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the coalition derives revenue from membership and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of this revenue was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the coalition and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to membership and fundraising revenue, excess of revenue over expenses for the year, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of membership and fundraising revenue referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the coalition as at March 31, 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

May 17, 2004
Toronto, Ontario

Financial Statements 03/04

ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2004

	2004	2003
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 32,077	\$ 20,841
Accounts receivable	15,337	24,157
Prepaid expenses	<u>6,365</u>	<u>3,154</u>
	<u>\$ 53,779</u>	<u>\$ 48,152</u>
LIABILITIES NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 9,101	\$ 15,252
Deferred revenue (note 3)	<u>77,008</u>	<u>37,403</u>
	<u>86,109</u>	<u>52,655</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	<u>(32,330)</u>	<u>(4,503)</u>
	<u>\$ 53,779</u>	<u>\$ 48,152</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:

_____, Director

_____, Director

Financial Statements 03/04

ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2004

	2004	2003
REVENUE		
Administrative services	\$ 78,414	\$ 85,943
Sponsorships and sales	63,206	10,872
Grants (note 4)	51,877	129,900
Donations and fundraising	<u>11,225</u>	<u>18,604</u>
	<u>204,722</u>	<u>245,319</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	132,636	152,353
Rent, maintenance and utilities	28,158	26,751
Program printing and photocopying	17,146	7,695
CCAN conference	13,761	18,958
Office and general	13,533	13,683
Professional services	7,268	5,254
Equipment	7,206	5,266
Communications	6,526	16,868
Board, Council and committee	4,037	14,157
Travel	2,278	18,775
Advertising and promotion	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,400</u>
	<u>232,549</u>	<u>281,160</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE FOR THE YEAR	(27,827)	(35,841)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>(4,503)</u>	<u>31,338</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ (32,330)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (4,503)</u></u>

Membership Information

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP – Individual & Organization

INDIVIDUALS:

	<u>YEARLY</u>
Students, Unsalaries, Retired.....	\$16.50
Child Care Worker.....	\$27.50
all others.....	\$44.00

ORGANIZATIONS

local groups/coalitions.....	\$90.00
up to 50 members.....	\$100.00
51-200 members.....	\$150.00
201-1000 members.....	\$300.00
1,001-5,000 members.....	\$900.00
over 5,000 members.....	\$1,000.00

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP SERVICES INCLUDE:

Online resources on our regularly updated website and access to our resource library

Child Care Watch bi-monthly newsletter including Executive Director's Quarterly Report

Electronic Information Alerts

The opportunity to set child care policy through participation on the Coalition Executive and Council

Preferred access to meetings, conferences and seminars at reduced rates

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP – Child Care Program (Not-For-Profit)

Please check category

	<u>YEARLY</u>
child care program up to 50 children.....	\$180.00
child care program up to 75 children.....	\$205.00
child care program up to 100 children.....	\$230.00
child care program 101 children and over.....	\$250.00

Toronto Child care program - add..... \$50.00 to your category above for automatic dual membership in the Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care

private home child care agency..... \$90.00
- plus \$1.00 for each licensed space

support services agency or special constituency organization..... \$275.00

resource program, drop-in centre, toy lending library, and others..... \$50.00

Contact us at

info@childcareontario.org

or 416-538-0628/1-800-594-7514

for more information and to join.

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

Access to child care information and advocacy on program-based issues

Child Care Watch monthly newsletter including Executive Director's Quarterly Report

Electronic Information Alerts

A Guide to Child Care in Ontario resource book

OPTIONAL BENEFITS

Comprehensive employee benefits package

Registered Retirement Savings Plan

Program Insurance and Officer's Liability Insurance – Some restrictions may apply.