



**ECEBC** | early childhood  
educators of BC

October 31, 2007

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends

The province of BC, through the Ministry of Children and Family Development, has recently announced \$12.5 million for a capital expansion of child care spaces. With this announcement also comes a significant shift in public policy as for the first time capital dollars are available to for profit child care businesses.

Since that announcement, a foreign based corporation by the name of 123 Global through Adroit Investments LLC, is sending letters offering to buy childcare programs run by private operators across the province. The time line is as short as three weeks to complete the deal.

123 Global is an investment firm that is described as a “growth engine” for and partner of A.B.C. Learning Centres, an Australian-based multinational child care corporation, self described as the largest publicly listed child care provider in the world. 123 Global is also a partner of corporate child care operations in the United States, Britain, Japan and China. We know that operators in Ontario, Alberta and now BC have already been approached. If they are successful here, we expect they will continue and move into other provinces.

ECEBC, as the professional association for early childhood educators, believes that one of the principal indicators of quality is well trained and remunerated staff. Based on what we understand of Australia, this is not the case. Concurrent with the growth of the world's largest child care corporation, parent fees in Australia are increasing dramatically while wages remain low. In fact, the corporation reports that staff wages account for approximately 50% of a centre's operating budget, while in the non-profit sector they account for 80 – 85%. To lessen the financial burden of increased fees for families the Australian government child care expenditures have almost doubled in the past eight years. But these public funds appear to be going into shareholder pockets rather than quality about which concerns are frequently reported in the media. Based on the Australian experience, corporate child care does not build the kind of quality, community based child care that we support.

Please go to the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC website [www.cccabc.bc.ca](http://www.cccabc.bc.ca) and click onto the BC Childcare is NOT FOR SALE icon. There are a number of pieces of information that are useful background, especially the article entitled “Hindsight from Australia – Foresight for BC”. Also please see [www.buildchildcare.ca](http://www.buildchildcare.ca) for information on the Pan Canadian movement.

We see this situation as a clear and present danger for community based child care as we currently know it.



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We ask you to join us in fighting this threat. Let your politicians at all levels of government know that you do not believe public dollars should be used to develop warehouse style foreign owned childcare. Let them know you believe our children deserve much more. Consider a press release and or writing to your local papers.

Please keep in touch and stay updated by regularly checking the Coalition and Build Childcare websites.

Thank you for your time and your energy to once again get involved.

Regards,

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