



**association of university and college employees**

May 5, 1982

To: Members of AUCE Local 1 Executive and other union members interested in the question of day care at UBC

Attached is a proposal to go to the President's Advisory Committee on Child Care.

It is just a draft. Please feel free to make corrections, additions or whatever.

I would also appreciate your opinion on whether this proposal should go in written form to the Committee or whether you think it would be more effective to deliver it in person. If we are going to make an oral presentation someone should attend that is conversant with the day care situation at UBC.

I would appreciate hearing and/or receiving your comments by the middle of next week, Wednesday, May 12, 1982, so that we can make arrangements with the President's Committee.

Thanks.

Fraternally,

Carole Cameron  
Union Organiser  
AUCE Local 1

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POSSIBLE DRAFT PROPOSAL to the President's Advisory Committee on Day Care

Day care is a responsible supplement to the care a child receives from parents. It can function, if properly funded and supported, as a community based support service for parents. Such a service is a positive, nurturing and enriching experience for all children.

The day care needs of employed staff at UBC have been met in the past by the Acadia Camp facilities, which are now in a state of repair that indicate some major changes are needed.

We share the concern of the administration of the University and the Provincial Government administrators who attended the day care meeting in March - a meeting called to clarify the present safety aspects of the buildings and to spell out for the parents of children in day care just what the University position is vis a vis the continuing role of the administration on campus. It is apparent from the discussions that the chief problem is the fire safety aspect of the buildings and the need for some relocation of the centres.

The University should be prepared to initiate an exemplary day care program in line with its stated policy and standards.

It would be our recommendation that some provision of space be met in the construction of the proposed new housing to go on the Acadia Camp site.

The University should immediately initiate planning procedures for new buildings that will provide an optimum child care environment.

Until such time as the new facility is available, the existing day care facilities must be maintained at the level needed to pass fire inspection after September 1, 1982. This level was outlined by the Fire Marshall at the meeting in March.

If the University is not prepared to support the capital outlay necessary to bring the huts up to standard, an alternative suggestion is to buy, rent or lease portable huts to accommodate the children using the campus day care facilities until such time as new facilities are built. This could be done at considerably less cost than maintaining the existing facilities.

The Day Care Council should continue to run the centres, as they do now, in cooperation with the President's Advisory Committee on Child Care. The U. will continue to maintain the centres and provide cleaning service. The day care centres should be run on an hourly paid format and be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. One centre should be available on a drop-in basis to students.

We feel that the University and the Day Care Council should together develop a contract specifying the responsibilities of the University, the Societies and the coordinator.

We further feel that a management committee should be set up to include representation from the university community, including student services, support staff and academic departments, that use the centres, and the parents and that the parents constitute a majority.

Mechanisms must be developed, maintained and supported to allow for continued and meaningful staff and parent involvement in policy, procedure and program decisions at all administrative levels.

We wish the University to assume responsibility for developing a quality child care system by:

- (a) undertaking long-term planning in order to develop a model toward which we can work and,

(b) ensuring adequate funding to implement this model.

We further urge the University to establish a system of financial support for the centres in exchange for use of them as an academic resource.

Together with the University we want to work toward parental, community and government recognition of this crucial issue, day care, which has a direct impact on the quality of life available to the children of this province.