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Council history on working on issues related to childcare Recommendations and Comments

1988 Position Paper

Included a note on childcare crisis "The Advisory Council assumes that the reality of the child care crisis has been brought home to politicians and bureaucrats in recent months."

The Government of the Northwest Territories must recognize that childcare is a matter of public policy like education and health care.

Recommendation: That public funds under a childcare program be designated for government licensed childcare services only.

Recommendation: That public funds in a childcare program be directed only to non-profit day care centres and family day homes.

1988 – NWT Child Care Act to provide for the licensing and regulation of child care services.

1989 – GNWT Interim Childcare Program to provide start-up funding, operating subsidies, parent subsidies, and training, for centres and day homes offering non-profit, full-time child care. ***Not accompanied by a full policy statement to guide the development of government childcare programs.***

1990 Child Care Report Card on the GNWT

- D in Child Care Policy – there is no policy
- D for not meeting capital grants
- C+ for subsidy eligibility requirements being too high

1991 Brief to the Native Council of Canada, National Commission on Aboriginal Child Care

'The lack of a comprehensive NWT child care policy is of great concern to the Status of Women Council'

The operating grants are too low.

The low operating subsidies make it very difficult to pay a decent wage to child care workers.

The parent subsidy program has been a source of frustration for day care operators and parents alike.

8 recommendations made

1992 Submission to the Commission for Constitution Development

There are a number of barriers to the full participation of women in the work force; lack of role models, male-dominated organizations; lack of pay equity. The most obvious barriers, however, stem from society's expectation that women bear the primary responsibility for childcare. Many women who work, whether by choice or by economic necessity, encounter great difficulties in combining child care responsibilities and employment or training in the face of a lack of child care services and an inflexible workplace.

"The current child care crisis similarly affects the ability of many women to maintain employment or take training."

1993 Child Care Survey

- subsidies too low
- lack of suitable buildings
- too many delays in getting subsidies
- too expensive even with subsidies
- wages too low with no benefits

1994 Revisions made to the Interim Childcare Program to include part-time and after-school childcare, and childcare to enhance early development
many communities lacking childcare because of no available buildings

1995 – A discussion paper on Income Support Reform in the NWT

In the NWT there are many single mothers on social assistance. Because of lack of licensed childcare services, many who try to take training or upgrading eventually have to drop out to look after their children, and go back on social assistance.

Lack of childcare is a major barrier to women's training and employment

April 2001 – Comments on Updated NWT Labour Force Development Plan 2001-2006 – A Workable Approach

Lack of reliable childcare and issues related child care funding are a huge barrier facing women wishing to access training, education, employment, life skills, adult basic education and literacy, wellness programs and other essential components noted in the Labour Force Development Plan.

Recommendation – That the Department of Education, Culture and Employment collaborate with childcare providers, childcare users, and women's groups to conduct a thorough review of the NWT Child Care Program, in order to

eliminate barriers and improve access to child care services in NWT communities.

Recommendation – That the Labour Force Development Plan be revised to address the issue of access to child care services.

September 2001 Council meeting with Joe Handley

The lack of affordable childcare is a major barrier to women for education, training, employment, healing and recovery.

Many of the issues from the survey in 1993 remain

2002 – 2005

Council continues to advocate for accessible, affordable not for profit childcare centres. All projects include childcare for participants.

Participated National campaigns for a National Childcare Act and Program.

