

Day care protest dawns [CA-BC] ^[1]

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Source: Kamloops This Week

Format: Article

Publication Date: 4 Feb 2007

AVAILABILITY

See text below.

EXCERPTS

Kamloops parents inconvenienced by Tuesday's day-care protest are getting a taste of what's to come if B.C. day cares remain underfunded, said the NDP's child-care critic.

"The parents that will be stuck this time for the protest will be stuck in the future," said Claire Trevena, who was in Kamloops Thursday, visiting with the local child-care community.

If the government refuses to create new day-care spaces and increase funding, Trevena said, Kamloops day-care waitlists will get longer and force parents away from their jobs to look after their children.

She listened as day-care workers lamented provincial and federal cuts to child care, announced late last year. Trevena said she supports Tuesday's action. "I'm supporting the day cares who want to show how angry they are about how wrong this is."

Some Kamloops day cares will stage a one-day walk-out on Tuesday at city hall to protest the cuts.

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Mary-Ellen Everatt, director of the Kamloops YMCA-YWCA child-care resource and referral centre, said the majority of Kamloops day-care dependent parents support Tuesday's protest.

The protesters will line the Overlander Bridge and the road in front of the courthouse Tuesday at 7 p.m. before coming together for a noon rally at city hall.

"I think we're going to have a full house," Everatt said.

- reprinted from Kamloops This Week

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