

MOMS needs you!

Support our provincial day of protest: Oct. 28

In 2005, BC Premier Gordon Campbell promised to build the best system of supports for children with special needs in Canada. Despite huge provincial surpluses, he failed to fix major gaps and waitlists. Now he's cutting services.

So we're asking moms and dads to stand up and remind the Premier of his promises to BC's children.

Join our provincial day of action on Wednesday October 28.

WHY:

- Eliminating early intensive intervention programs.
- Denying therapy to children who can't pay thousands of dollars each year out of pocket.
- Eliminating staff who deliver Infant Development, Aboriginal IDP and Supported Child Care services.
- \$32 million cuts to provincial staff who manage & deliver kids' programs; \$3.6 million cuts to front-line services; cuts to children in care, childcare, FASD prevention, even Special Olympics.
- No assessment of risks and impacts of these cuts and no consultation with families.
- Denial of special education in public schools - forcing families to pay privately.
- Despite promised changes, youths with special needs still denied vital supports on the basis of IQ.

We CAN afford better: The Premier's 2009 budget includes \$14 billion for new capital projects. Millions are still being wasted on endless restructuring. Alberta still funds up to \$60,000 in therapy for all children under 18 despite a larger deficit than BC's. British Columbians don't want the budget balanced on the backs of vulnerable children. These foolish cuts will destroy lives and cost far more in the long run.

THE ACTION:

What: Small groups gather at high-traffic locations throughout the province with signs and banners & later deliver hundreds of balloons to MLA offices representing the fragile young lives hurt by broken promises.

When: 7:30 – 8:30 am (morning rush hour) on Wednesday Oct. 28 (or as specified by local groups)

Where: Vancouver, North Van, Victoria, Kamloops, Kelowna and other communities – anywhere that a local group of families wants to join us & do their own thing).

Who: This is a family-led initiative, but anyone is welcome to join in support

No-Nos: (No traffic disruption, no kids near traffic, no disorderly conduct, keep it non-partisan, law abiding, respectful & focussed on children's issues vs. things like Olympics or HST. Safety first, please!)

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

- Join the groups already planned for North Van, Vancouver, Richmond, Victoria, Kelowna & Kamloops
- Organise or participate in a simultaneous action in another community

If you can participate, please e-mail Cyndi Gerlach ASAP at momsonthemove@telus.net. Please invite other families, friends, neighbours, concerned citizens, professionals and service providers to join in!

Thank you!

Militant Moms on the Move

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<http://momsnetwork.ca/>