

**University of Toronto Archives
and Records Management Services**



Campus Community Cooperative Day Care Centre fonds

B2021-0002

Louise Curtis, 2022

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Administrative History

The Campus Community Cooperative Day Care Centre (CCCDCC) is an organization that provides day care for the children of students, faculty and staff at the University of Toronto St. George campus and for the surrounding community.

The CCCDCC opened its doors on September 22, 1969. The first day care centre to operate at the University of Toronto, it paved the way for the eventual establishment of accessible and affordable child care on campus, providing students and working parents with the necessary supports to pursue their education and career. Their focus on infant care was pioneering. The centre was one of the first in a growing movement towards parent- and community-run child care, formed by a grassroots cooperative group of parents, students and volunteers at a time when the concept of child care for all was in its infancy and still carried the connotation of being only for at-risk children and families.

In the Spring of 1969 a group of feminists from The Women's Liberation Movement – Toronto distributed a leaflet on campus to gauge interest and enlist participants in a cooperative day care facility. Their goal was to achieve “accessible, high-quality, affordable early learning and child care” for the University of Toronto community.¹ At this time the university assumed no responsibility for child care. The leafleting and a simultaneous letter writing campaign resulted in 40 registrations and thus the CCCDCC was born. With term time approaching the group focussed on material needs, primarily the search for a location in which to house a day care facility. Requests to the university for space were unsuccessful. Eventually the group took matters into their own hands and occupied 12 Sussex Avenue, an unused building belonging to the University of Toronto from which the day care began operations.

The early years of the CCCDCC's existence involved ongoing activism and advocacy to get the support they needed from the University of Toronto to operate and subsequently expand. Their activities garnered considerable attention from the media including special editions of *The Varsity* devoted to their cause.² There was also front-page coverage in newspapers like *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*. The CCCDCC's commitment to parent involvement, early childhood education, the co-operative movement, feminism, collective decision making, alternative approaches to family structures and childrearing were seen as 'counter-culture' and set them at odds

¹ Mathien, J. (2021). Struggles and sit-ins: The early years of Campus Community Co-operative Day Care Centre and child care in Canada. Childcare Resource and Research Unit. Page 54. Accessed at childcarecanada.org

² [The Varsity, Volume 90 – No. 62, March 25, 1970](#) ; [The Varsity, Volume 90 – No. 61, March 26, 1970](#)

with both the university administration of the time and the provincial government's day care branch. As observed by Lisa Pasolli, the co-op was "...part of a much bigger story of the feminist and New Left movements of the late 1960s, one devoted to challenging the constraints of the nuclear family and undoing sexist child-rearing."³

The founding members of the CCCDCC came from the university's student and staff population and included, amongst others: Sarah Spinks, Kathryn Petersen, Dr. Loreenne Smith and John Foster (the donor of the records in accession B2021-0002). Other key individuals, such as Julie Mathien, went on to play important roles in education and child care advocacy through work with groups like The Daycare Organizing Committee and the Toronto Board of Education. The membership changed regularly in this period and consisted of various parents, supporters and volunteers in addition to two paid co-ordinators hired to help run the centre. The importance of volunteer time and energy in establishing, organizing, and running the CCCDCC cannot be overstated. Volunteer roles ranged from daily duties supplementing the staff (cooking, diapers, playing, etc.) to committee work, advocacy and a variety of other responsibilities.

The CCCDCC's activism is demonstrated by two key events. The first was a rally on March 25, 1970 to demand guaranteed, rent-free space and a commitment to building renovations that would enable them to meet and pass the licensing requirements of Ontario's Day Nurseries Act. The rally met at Sidney Smith and was followed by a march to Simcoe Hall. The subsequent sit-in (the University of Toronto's first) lasted 22 hours, ending the following morning when University of Toronto President Claude Bissell made an announcement guaranteeing funds for renovation (though the university still did not assume any responsibility for university-provided childcare). The second major event took place in April 1972 when members of the CCCDCC occupied an empty club house on Devonshire Place to create a day care for over 2s (the 'graduates' of the Sussex daycare). They maintained 24/7 occupation of the space for a full year.

After the mid-70s the CCCDCC stepped back from the front lines of advocacy and activism but has continued to provide child care for the University of Toronto community from various locations on campus. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2019.

For more information [see The Campus Community Coop Daycare website](#).

References:

³ Pasolli, L. (2021). "Creating universal child care from the ground up: The legacy of Toronto's grassroots child care advocacy," [Childcare Resource and Research Unit blog](#)

- [1] Mathien, J. (2021). Struggles and sit-ins: The early years of Campus Community Co-operative Day Care Centre and child care in Canada. Childcare Resource and Research Unit. Page 54. Accessed at childcarecanada.org
- [2] [The Varsity, Volume 90 – No. 62, March 25, 1970 ; The Varsity, Volume 90 – No. 61, March 26, 1970](#)
- [3] Pasolli, L. (2021). "Creating universal child care from the ground up: The legacy of Toronto's grassroots child care advocacy," [Childcare Resource and Research Unit blog](#)

University of Toronto Archives. Oral History Collection on Student Activism. Oral history interview with John Foster conducted by Ruth Belay, 27 February 2020. A2020-0010/014S and University of Toronto Archives. Oral History Collection on Student Activism. Oral history interview with Julie Mathien conducted by Ruth Belay, 17 December 2019. A2020-0010/003S.

Custodial History: Records in accession B2021-0002 were created and accumulated by John Foster in the course of his activities with the CCCDCC and were stored at his home. Foster was a graduate student and lecturer at UofT in the early 1970s, his partner worked for the Student Administrative Council (SAC) and their child attended the daycare. Foster volunteered in various capacities with the CCCDCC including as treasurer. Foster and another key member of the collective, Julie Mathien, participated in the UTARMS Student Activism Oral Histories Project, describing their experiences with the CCCDCC.⁴ The records in B2021-0002 had been loaned by Foster to Julie Mathien for research purposes and were subsequently donated to the archives. This accession may also include some records accumulated by another founding member, Kathryn Petersen.

Scope and content

1963-[2000-2020?], predominant 1969-1977
0.2 m of textual records (2 boxes)

Note: Fonds contains records created and accumulated by one of the founding members of the CCCDCC, John Foster, and predominantly consists of materials documenting the formative years of the cooperative, with particular focus on the events of 1970 and 1972. The records reflect the sometimes adversarial relationship with university administration and the province during those years and demonstrate ongoing

⁴ University of Toronto Archives. Oral History Collection on Student Activism. Oral history interview with John Foster conducted by Ruth Belay, 27 February 2020. A2020-0010/014S and University of Toronto Archives. Oral History Collection on Student Activism. Oral history interview with Julie Mathien conducted by Ruth Belay, 17 December 2019. A2020-0010/003S.

negotiation with those two groups. Included are records documenting CCCDCC's goals and philosophy and the challenges of combining political ideals with the day-to-day operation of a child care facility. Also included are materials that situate the CCCDCC as part of a larger movement towards co-operative organization, early childhood education in Canada and the U.S. and other movements of the period. There are also records related to other Toronto groups providing child care such as The St. Andrew's University Day Nursery.

Records include correspondence, committee documentation, financial records, research materials, newsletters, fact sheets, membership lists, educational materials, ephemera, publications and clippings of media coverage.

See series descriptions for additional information.

Arrangement: the records were received in mixed order, with some in folders and some loose. The original foldering system has been maintained where possible and the records have been arranged into series by the archivist. The unstructured nature of the records may be a reflection of the organizational style of this co-operative group, who were learning as they went along and whose membership relied heavily on volunteers and changed regularly. Thus, many of the files contain a mix of types of record.

Access: Some files in Series 1 are restricted. Consult University Archivist for permission.

- **Series 1: B2021-0002/001(02), (05), (07)**

Boxes: B2021-0002/001-/002

Related material:

- A2020-0010/014S
- A2020-0010/003S
- A1975-1113
- B1972-1123
- B1972-1132
- B1983-1090

Associated material:

- Canadian Women's Movement Archives (CWMA) fonds (contains materials relating to both the Toronto Women's Liberation Movement and the CCCDCC)
- Rise Up! A digital archive of feminist activism (contains other editions of "Day Care for Everyone!")

- Women Unite! (contains chapter "Sussex Day Care")

Series 1: Committees

1969-1976

0.04 m of textual records

Series contains records relating to CCCDCC committees. There were many different committees during the early years of the CCCDCC, however this series only contains records relating to a few, primarily the Finance Committee of which John Foster was chair. Files contain a mix of various types of record including correspondence, budget projections, minutes, handwritten and typed notes, drafts, strategic planning and phone lists. Information relating to committee work can also be found within the CCCDCC newsletters in Series 5 (file B2021-0002/002(02))

Arrangement: Files are organized in chronological order.

Access:

All files are open with the exception of:

- **B2021-0002/001(02), (05), (07)**

These files have been restricted to protect the privacy of third parties. Please contact the University Archivist for permission to access these records.

Boxes: B2021-0002/001(01)-(07)

Series 2: Relations with the University of Toronto

1970-1999

0.04 m of textual records

Series contains correspondence, minutes and fact sheets predominantly concerning relations with University of Toronto administration, but also with related bodies including the Faculty Association, the SAC, the Graduate Student Union (GSU), the Day Care Board, the proposed University of Toronto Day Care Centre and St. Andrew's University Day Nursery (financial and contractual information relating to St. Andrews University Day Nursery can also be found in B2021-0002/001(01)). The news clippings, which include opinion pieces and letters to the editor, show how these campus events caught the public imagination.

Arrangement: Files are organized in chronological order

Access: Open

Boxes: B2021-0002/001(08)-(12)

Series 3: Daycare legislation

1970-1973

0.02 m of textual records

Series contains records relating to the CCCDC's attempts to receive a license under the provincial day care regulations (the Day Nurseries Act), including legal materials such as briefs, decision and appeal notices, correspondence, research, and meeting notes. Materials relating to day care legislation can also be found in Series 1 (Daycare Legal Committee) and Series 4 (Research).

Arrangement: Files are organized in chronological order.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2021-0002/001(13)-(15)

Series 4: Research

1963-1972

0.02 m of textual records

Series contains records created and accumulated in the course of research about day care both in Canada and internationally and includes photocopied articles, publications, handwritten and typed lists and notes, reports, pamphlets and news clippings.

Arrangement: Files are organized in chronological order.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2021-0002/001(16)-(19)

Series 5: Operational files

[1969?]-1999

0.03 m of textual records

Series contains records documenting the day-to-day operation of the day care and includes newsletters, information sheets, phone lists and handbooks. The day care handbooks provided basic child care instruction to members and also outlined the political values and principles of the centre. See file level descriptions for additional information. Other records relating to the day-to-day operation of the day care may also be found in Series 1: Committees.

Arrangement: Files arranged in chronological order.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2021-0002/002(01)-(03)

Series 6: Ephemera and publications

1969-1973, [2000-2020?]

0.03 m of textual records

Scope and content: Series contains ephemera such as leaflets, event flyers and posters, as well as publications created by the CCCDCC.

Arrangement: Files and their contents have been arranged in chronological order.

Access: Open

Boxes: B2021-0002/002(04)-(07)

Appendix

Series 1: Committees

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/001(01)	[Financials – budget projections, minutes, notes and correspondence from the Finance and Services Committees] [restricted documents removed, see B2021-0002/001(02)]	Jan. 1969-Feb. 1972
	Note: File also includes "praxis notes" vol. 1, no.2 containing article by John Foster "Space and Money"	
B2021-0002/001(02)	[Financials – budget projections, minutes, notes and correspondence from the Finance and Services Committees] [RESTRICTED, documents removed from B2021-0002/001(01)]	1969-1972

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/001 (03)	Daycare Legal Committee	Sep. 14, 1971 – Jul. 5, 1972
B2021-0002/001 (04)	Sussex-Devonshire Finance Committee [restricted documents removed, see B2021-0002/001 (05)]	May 1972- Sep. 1972
B2021-0002/001(05)	Sussex-Devonshire Finance Committee [RESTRICTED, documents removed from B2021-0002/001(04)]	June 1972
B2021-0002/001 (06)	[Finance Committee reports and statements] [restricted documents removed, see B2021-0002/001 (07)]	Jul. 27, 1972- Sep. 30, 1976
B2021-0002/001(07)	[Financials – budget projections, notes from the Services Committee] [RESTRICTED, documents removed from B2021-0002/001(06)]	1972-1976

Series 2: Relations with the University of Toronto

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/001 (08)	[Correspondence with UofT administration]	Mar. 20, 1970- Apr. 9, 1970
B2021-0002/001 (09)	[Correspondence with UofT administration – SAC, GSU, Day Care Board and St. Andrew's University Day Nursery]	Mar. 27, 1972- Sep. 12, 1972
B2021-0002/001 (10)	Reply to [Faculty Association President] Conacher's letter	1972
B2021-0002/001 (11)	[Media coverage – newspaper clippings]	Mar. 25, 1970- Nov. 13, 1999, predominant 1970-1972
B2021-0002/001 (12)	[University-Daycare meetings]	1995-1997

Series 3: Daycare legislation

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/001 (13)	1970 - Daycare centre current	1970 - 1971
B2021-0002/001 (14)	"Day Care Legislation in Canada" [part of the report on the national study of day care by the Canadian Council of Social Development]	[197-]-1972

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/001 (15)	Foster: Daycare related [documents related to licensing of the CCCDC]	1971-1973

Series 4: Research

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/001 (16)	Daycare research Oct. 71	1970-1971
	Note: File includes "praxis notes" vol. 1, no. 1	
B2021-0002/001 (17)	[Daycare research, U.S. & other – news clippings]	1969-[198-], predominant 1969-1972
B2021-0002/001 (18)	Reports on day care and other centres	1970-1971
B2021-0002/001 (19)	A small selection of ... pamphlets issued by the Day Nurseries Branch of the Dept. of Social and Family Services	[1970?]

Series 5: Operational files

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/002(01)	[Day care handbooks]	[1969?]-1991, predominant 1970-1977
	Note: Handbooks were given to everyone involved with the day care. They provided basic instruction on all aspects of child care and also outlined the political values and principles of the centre.	
B2021-0002/002(02)	[Newsletters and General Meeting minutes]	1970-1999, predominant 1970-1977
	Note: CCCDCC Newsletters often included general and committee meeting minutes, outlining policies, objectives and problems.	
B2021-0002/002(03)	Over-2 day care centre at Devonshire Place	1972
	Note: File contains records relating to the temporary over-2 centre and the permanent centre that replaced it at Devonshire Place. Includes a chronology of the centre, a working paper on sexism, proposed schemes	

File number	File title	Date range
	to improve operations and morale, an information sheet and a research paper by Lorene Smith and Jackie Larkin	

Series 6: Ephemera and publications

File number	File title	Date range
B2021-0002/002(04)	[Ephemera]	1969-1972
B2021-0002/002(05)	[Publications]	1972-1973
B2021-0002/002(06)	"Day Care for Everyone!"	1972
	Note: Other editions of "Day Care for Everyone!" can be found in Rise Up! Digital feminist archive	
B2021-0002/002(07)	[Untitled history of CCCDCC]	[2000-2020?]