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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Provincial Budget Continues to Ignore the Environment for Children

Vancouver, B.C., February 19, 2008 - Today's provincial budget was full of environmental measures but has once again failed to address the early-childhood education and care environment for BC's most vulnerable constituency: young children, according to the Early Childhood Educators of B.C.

"Unfortunately this budget comes as no surprise to us," said Toni Hoyland, President of the ECEBC. "We have been calling on the Provincial Liberal government for many years to develop a vision and a plan to support young working families and their children. In this budget, we don't even see lip service being paid to this group of taxpayers."

Sheila Davidson, Executive Director of ECEBC, added that a growing body of research demonstrates that the provision of quality early-learning experiences and care for young children makes a life-long difference to the health and well being of individuals.

"A budget that is solely focused on making the province the greenest in North America while ignoring its youngest citizens is not doing its job," said Davidson.

The ECEBC is the professional association for early childhood educators in British Columbia. It advocates for ECE practitioners, young children and families and believes that a society that values and nurtures children will be a stronger and healthier society.

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