



Ministry of Children and Family Development  
The Honorable Linda Reid,  
Minister of State for Childcare  
Parliament Buildings – Room 029  
PO Box 9062  
STN Provincial Government  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

May 29, 2006

Dear Minister Reid,

The Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) is very concerned about continued funding for Early Learning and Childcare in BC. We continue to wait for the Provincial Government to publicly state that early learning and childcare funding from the federal government is a priority issue. The early childhood community has been disappointed that Premier Campbell and your Ministry have not publicly advocated for the childcare agreement in principle, signed by the BC and Federal Liberals in September of 2005 and cancelled by the Federal Conservatives in early 2006. Premier Campbell has stood up for the Kelowna Accord, saying, “A deal’s a deal!” This has been our position all along with the national childcare money but BC residents have not heard this from our elected officials.

We feel it is very important to express our concerns about other national childcare funds that currently flow to the provinces. The Early Childhood Development Agreement (ECDA), signed in 2000 and the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Childcare (MLF), signed in 2003, currently bring \$95.4 million to the province of BC to support families, young children and childcare. These funds are also at risk and ECEBC expects your ministry to advocate as strongly as possible with the Federal Government to ensure the continuation of these funds.

Early Childhood services to families are at the brink of crisis in BC with waiting lists in every area of our province, a shortage of early childhood educators in all areas and training for Infant Toddler Educators inconsistent at best. Recruitment, retention and remuneration of Early Childhood Educators continue to be an issue that must be addressed. As you have said Minister Reid, “The quality of care our children receive in their early years is the most important factor in their successes in school, in social relationships, as adolescents and as adults.” ECEBC and young children and families count on you to uphold your commitment and your investment in young children by ensuring funding continues from the Federal and Provincial governments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni Hoyland  
ECEBC President