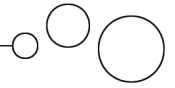


COALITION OF

child care advocates

OF BC



Working together for a community based, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and accountable.

December 1, 2010

President Stephen Toope
University of British Columbia
Office of the President
6328 Memorial Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

Dear President Toope,

In October, we wrote to you to express our alarm and concern that the University of British Columbia had entered into a contract with *Kids and Company* to provide off-campus child care services for the UBC community. In November we received a response (attached) from Lisa Castle, your Associate Vice President of Human Resources.

We remain alarmed that UBC defends its support of *Kids and Company* as a measure to 'simply provide (parents) with another option if it worked for them.' This rationale ignores the serious implications of a credible organization like UBC using public funds to support corporate, for-profit child care as a viable solution to BC's child care crisis. We continue to urge UBC to rethink this decision.

That said, we applaud two of Ms. Castle's points. First, we are pleased that UBC remains committed to UBC Child Care Services and to future expansion of this service. We trust you know that UBC Child Care Services are amongst the most highly regarded in BC. The leadership and commitment to quality early childhood education practice exemplified at UBC Child Care Services is in fact part of the solution to the child care crisis faced by all members of the UBC community.

Secondly, we are particularly encouraged to hear that UBC accepts and embraces an advocacy role in ensuring federal and provincial governments address quality child care as a critical area of social policy.

As BC's leading child care advocacy organization with over 25 years of experience in advancing a progressive child care agenda, we respectfully offer some suggestions for how UBC might strengthen its advocacy role on this crucial issue.

1. Inform yourselves about and endorse *Our Emerging Plan for Integrated Early Care and Learning System in BC* (enclosed) as the strategy for moving forward. (We would be happy to provide you with a Briefing about the Plan.)

2. Ensure that child care is an agenda item when UBC representatives meet with federal or provincial policy makers – at bureaucratic and political levels.
3. As a respected community leader in the field of education, highlight the need for action on integrated child care and learning at the many public and community dialogues you attend.
4. Take out a membership in the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC at the same rate (\$5000) as you spent on your membership with *Kids and Company*.

We are confident that advocacy is the way to solve the child care crisis. We are equally certain that corporate, for-profit approaches are not. We look forward to working with you to advance the quality early care and learning system that BC children and families deserve.

Sincerely,



Susan Harney
Chairperson

cc. Darcelle Cottons, UBC Childcare Services