



December 13, 2007

Our Ref: 123644

Susan Harney, Chair  
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia  
2772 East Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5M 1Y8

Dear Ms. Harney;

Thank you for supplying copies of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC's report entitled "The revolution: community controlled child care in BC" at the BC Healthy Child Alliance Forum on November 19, 2007.

We appreciate your organization's perspective on child care service delivery and governance and agree that a well defined system for governing child care services is important and key to quality and accessible services for young children. The report provides interesting and though provoking information about the early learning mandate of the Ministry of Education and how other jurisdictions have organized and govern their early learning and child care services.

A number of statements made in the report regarding the Ministry of Education we believe are misrepresented and erroneous. Specifically on page 13 the report states:

*"...the Ministry of Education has not yet consistently shown that:*

- It understands the need to support children's holistic development*
- It understands and respects the needs of working families*
- It understands and appreciates the expertise and value of early childhood educators, and*
- It understands the need for meaningful parental involvement in services for young children"*

.../2

We would appreciate if the following corrections to be noted in future discussions of this report.

1. The StrongStart BC Early Learning Centre policy states the program and curricula must support the holistic development of children. The early childhood educators working in the centres are knowledgeable and keenly aware of the importance of supporting all areas of development of children.
2. To support working families, many StrongStart BC Early Learning Centres are open in the evenings and on weekends. It was not the intent of a StrongStart BC Early Learning Centre to address the child care needs of families. The Ministry of Children and Family Development has programs to support the child care needs of working families.
3. The Ministry of Education does understand and values the expertise of early childhood educators, that is why the StrongStart BC Early Learning Centres are operated by Early Childhood Educators who hold a License to Practice.
4. The StrongStart BC Early Learning Centre philosophy is grounded in research which indicates that child outcomes are strengthened by programs that include parental partnerships and involvement. StrongStart BC Early Learning staff work directly with parents and families building on their strengths to support the learning of their children.

It is unfortunate that this report was published without an opportunity for the Ministry of Education to review it. We are happy to review future drafts of report to ensure correct and accurate information is provided to the public.

Yours sincerely,

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Carolyn Henson  
Manager, Early Learning  
Partnerships and Planning Division



Susan Kennedy  
Executive Director, Diversity, Equity and Early Learning  
Partnerships and Planning Division

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