



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

MAY 17 2012

Ref: 205782

Susan Harney  
Chairperson  
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC  
2772 East Broadway  
Vancouver BC V5M 1Y8

Dear Ms. Harney:

Thank you for your letter of May 3, 2012, requesting that the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) place a moratorium on providing Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) to large commercial child care providers.

MCFD provides funding for a range of accessible, quality child care and early learning opportunities, and makes CCOF available to all licensed child care providers in the province as long as providers, whether non-profit and private, continue to meet licensing standards listed in the Child Care Licensing Regulation.

This Government recognizes that access to quality, accessible child care supports parents' ability to contribute to their families and to the economy as a whole and believes it is important for parents to have options with respect to the types of child care available. We also support parents' ability to choose the child care arrangement that best meets their needs. At this time, for both reasons, our intention is to continue to provide CCOF support for all child care types.

Currently CCOF funds over 5,000 licensed child care facilities and supports more than 100,000 total spaces across the province, which represents an increase of 40 percent or 1,098 facilities and 31,814 contracted spaces, since 2003/2004. This investment in child care spaces increases the availability of licensed child care spaces across the province, which provides families with more options for quality child care.

As you have mentioned, MCFD will be hosting a Child Care Forum on May 24, 2012, in Richmond, where we will be discussing with participants ideas for improving the affordability and quality of child care in British Columbia, along with innovative solutions to increase the number of child care spaces. I welcome your participation at the Child Care Forum and look forward to hearing your suggestions related to these topics.

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Thank you again for writing. I continue to commend you and your organization for your passion and dedication related to the early learning and care field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary McNeil". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Mary McNeil  
Minister