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**Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly**

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(Vancouver-Mount Pleasant)

3 November, 2009

Dr. David Turpin, President
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2

Dear Dr. Turpin,

I write you today because it is my understanding that the University of Victoria is considering a contract with Kids and Co, a national corporate childcare provider, to address the need for additional child care. However, such a contract could have negative effects for children and child care across British Columbia, and I urge you to seek another solution.

As a working parent, I appreciate the demand for additional child care capacity at the University, and I commend your willingness to take this need seriously. However, I also believe that using public funds to contract out child care services at the University will harm British Columbia's already fragile child care system. I understand that large-scale corporate childcare in other jurisdictions has not proven to provide higher quality or more cost-effective child care in the long run. Early child care educators are among the lowest-paid workers relative to their education, and the evidence has shown that major corporate child care providers often reduce these already low wages in the pursuit of profit.

The University of Victoria has the opportunity to take a leadership role in promoting local non-profit child care as the sustainable path towards affordable child care by adopting policy that establishes this as an essential element of university life.

In these difficult economic times, the University also has an opportunity to create a made-in-BC solution. Rather than contracting with an out-of-province company, I would urge you to work with the existing stakeholders: on-site child care providers, parents, faculty and staff, and Victoria's larger child care community. This could build a sustainable, long-term solution that builds on the assets and expertise you already have and that do not open the door to large-scale corporate child care in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Jenny Wai Ching Kwan, MLA
Vancouver-Mt. Pleasant

Cc: Mr. Ray Protti, Chair, University of Victoria Board of Governors