

Mable Elmore
MLA Vancouver-Kensington
Room 201, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 250.387.3655
Fax: 250.387.4680



Constituency Office:
6106 Fraser Street
Vancouver, BC V5W 3A1
Phone: 604.775.1033
Fax: 604.775.1330
Mable.Elmore.MLA@leg.bc.ca

November 5, 2009

David H. Turpin, PhD, FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor
Office of the President
University of Victoria
Administrative Services Building Room A220
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Dear Dr. Turpin,

I am writing today to urge you not to pursue a contract with Kids and Co, a national corporate childcare provider, as a solution to the University of Victoria's childcare crisis. I appreciate the pressure your university is under to provide high quality, affordable childcare, and I want to commend you for taking seriously the childcare situation faced by your students, faculty, and staff. However, the decision to pursue a corporate childcare solution could have negative effects that reverberate around British Columbia.

From what I understand, evidence from other jurisdictions shows that large-scale corporate childcare does not provide quality childcare, nor is it cost-effective in the long run. Early childcare educators are among the most poorly paid workers relative to their education, and the evidence shows that major corporate childcare providers reduce these already low wages in the pursuit of profit.

As someone who is committed to building an accessible and affordable childcare system in British Columbia, I believe that using public funds to contract out childcare services at the University of Victoria will harm BC's already fragile childcare system. The University of Victoria needs to take a leadership role in promoting local non-profit childcare as the sustainable path towards affordable childcare.

I strongly encourage you to consider a solution that builds on the assets you already have and that do not open the door to large-scale corporate childcare in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Mable Elmore, MLA
Vancouver-Kensington

CC: Mr. Ray Protti, Chair of University of Victoria Board of Governors; Coalition of Childcare Advocates of BC

ME/sk