



October 13, 2010

Mr. Bill Levine, chair
UBC Board of Governors
The University of British Columbia

Re: UBC Childcare and the role of Kids & Co

Dear Mr. Levine,

As one of the largest campus-based childcare providers in North America, UBC Child Care Services is best known for the quality services it offers student parents, faculty and staff. Despite having opened six new daycare facilities since 2009 creating 141 new childcare spaces, the UBC community still faces a childcare crisis with more than 1500 children on its waiting list.

It came to our attention that recently the UBC Human Resource department signed a contract with a for-profit childcare company called Kids & Company without public, stakeholder consultation. This decision by the UBC administration contradicts the stated goal outlined in the Trek 2010¹ vision and operational plan proclaiming UBC's aim of expanding childcare services to ensure they meet the needs of its student parents, faculty and staff.

UBC's act of signing this contract with a for-profit childcare company in no way achieves this or moves our community toward meeting our childcare needs. In fact, the opposite is true, as research² shows that for-profit childcare companies focus on

¹ www.trek2000.ubc.ca/targets/index.html

² Mill, D. N. and Bartlett & D. R. White. Profit and non – profit day care: A comparison of quality, caregiver behaviour, and structural features. Canadian Journal of Early Childhood Education, 4(2): 45-53, 1995. In print: CIRC ID # 7157

maximizing profits by keeping expenses low through hiring less skilled childcare workers and paying them lower wages.

The Graduate Student Society has a history of advocating for quality, affordable, accessible, publicly-funded UBC-based childcare. We are deeply concerned that the impact of outsourcing childcare at UBC to a private company will increase the level of anxiety of UBC community members requiring these services who can reasonably expect lower quality and higher costs if this decision by the UBC Human Resource department /UBC administration is acted upon.

We believe that first and foremost, it is the responsibility of the provincial and federal governments to provide funding for the expansion of childcare services on campus, and secondly, as a world class university, UBC needs to expand its quality childcare service.

It's with this reality in mind that we urge you to review this decision and cancel the contract with Kids & Company.

I look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely,

Sedi Minachi
Vice President Academic & External
Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver
Email: vpexternal@gss.ubc.ca

Cc: Stephen Toope, president
Brian Sullivan, VP Students
Darcell Cottons, UBC Childcare director
