

**Coalition expresses dismay and outrage at the decision to terminate the ECE Program at Selkirk College**

March 2004

Marilyn Luscombe  
President  
Selkirk College Board  
Box 1200  
Castlegar, BC V1N 3J1

Dear Ms. Luscombe,

On behalf of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, I am writing to convey our dismay and our outrage at the decision to terminate the ECE Program at Selkirk College.

We are well aware of the long standing leadership that the program faculty have provided to the child care community over the past years; the standards of excellence established by the program; and the enormous contribution the program has made to the children, families and the community.

In the context of an ever growing body of research that powerfully affirms the need for quality early childhood services in promoting healthy child development; the vital role of child care in ensuring labour market participation for families; and the compelling evidence linking quality of service to the training of caregivers, we are shocked at the short sightedness of the College Board in its decision to discontinue the program.

This decision flies in the face of all that we have learned about the role of the community college in building a skilled workforce, enhancing community capacity, and responding to both current and future social and economic well being of the community it serves. We know that we echo the voices of many in calling on the Board to immediately reverse its decision and to reinstate the program.

Yours,

Susan Harney  
Chairperson

cc: Toni Hoyland