

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Human Resources

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November 3, 2010

Ms. Susan Harney
Chair
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
2772 East Broadway,
Vancouver, BC
V5M 1Y8

Dear Ms. Harney:

Thank you for your letter dated October 16, 2010 to Professor Toope. I have been asked to reply to your letter in which you raise a number of important and substantive concerns. We appreciate your taking the time to introduce your organization and its critical purpose in British Columbia.

The University of British Columbia is committed to the quality experience offered by UBC Child Care Services. This quality makes it an incredibly sought after option for student, faculty and staff parents. That then generates a wait list that does not seem to ameliorate in any significant way despite the University's opening of 108 new spaces last year, and further commitment to another 150 spaces (including the augmentation of part-time to full-time spaces) this year and next. The opening of Owl at the Barn in September was a recent example of this commitment.

UBC did take out a membership in Kids & Co to provide an option to parents for access to off campus child care. Many student, faculty and staff parents have let us know that they would like child care closer to their homes, rather than through UBC Child Care Services, and we took out this membership to simply provide them with one more option if it worked for them.

We reviewed experiences with Kids & Co with our colleagues at other institutions who also have a membership including the University of Toronto, McGill University, University of Alberta and University of Calgary. We will stay connected with our colleagues as we share our respective experiences and evaluate the effectiveness of the membership.

We assure you that we have every intention to continue our commitment to UBC Child Care Services on this campus, and absolutely no intention to displace or replace them with other providers. We cannot say that more strongly: our commitment is expressed in *Place & Promise: the UBC Plan* and *Focus on People: Workplace Practices at UBC*.

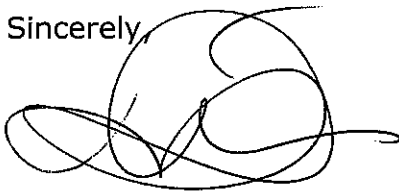
We agree that it is critical that we not lessen our commitment to expanding capacity on campus through Child Care Services (more centres are opening next year), and planning is underway to address future expansion. But, in our view, UBC cannot focus on only one solution to this pressing and immediate issue, as we cannot meet the need as a publicly funded academic institution, nor is it the right solution for some parents.

You may know that we are also pursuing the development of a "License Not Required" option for the campus. In addition, we are in discussions with other community based providers for priority access to spaces.

And, finally, we agree with you about the fundamental responsibility of provincial and federal governments to address quality child care as a critical area of social policy. We accept and embrace an advocacy role in the dialogue.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and commitment to this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lisa Castle', written over a circular scribble.

Lisa Castle
Associate Vice President
Human Resources

Cc: Professor Stephen J. Toope, President
Mr. Brian D. Sullivan, Vice President, Students
Ms. Darcelle Cottons, Director, UBC Child Care Services