

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 6:18 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; mcfdcc@gov.bc.ca; Minister, FIN FIN:EX

Subject: Childcare fee reduction initiative

Dear Minister Weaver, Minister Chen, Minister Conroy and Premier Horgan,

RE: Childcare Fee reduction initiative,

I am a concerned parent who has my child enrolled in a Multi-Age Childcare program in BC. I have made the choice to have my child cared for by an Early Childhood Educator led, Multi-Age center because I value my children being able to spend time in a licensed ECE lead program together in the same group with other children of multiple ages. I value ECE educated, or higher staff working on the floor with my child, in a small group of children, in my community, with the consistency of primary caregivers for several years.

After much trial and error, I found my ECE Multi-Age provider, and was so relieved to be able to find an affordable childcare program that I knew was licensed with an ECE or higher certified caregiver. I was able to go to work without worrying about the safety and care of my child.

I was very excited when the BCNDP announced to the province on Budget day that they would honor their campaign promise and start by giving financial relief for families with up to \$350/ month in fee reductions. I was pleased to see that parents who chose group childcare in BC with an ECE led staff would get that top fee reduction because I value greatly the education level of my Caregiver. This elation was quickly replaced with great concern when the details coming out told us that my Multi-Age provider was being designated as a "family" provider and would be given lower fee reduction rates and less CCOF funding as any other group program solely because my care provider is operating a multi-age program in the separate contained space on her property. More details rolled out and it was clear that in order for my fee reduction to be made available to me, my childcare provider would need to opt into this fee initiative plan by April first. This was giving my childcare operator a few days to review and make that decision.

I also found out that my provider would have to agree to freeze their fees and would only receive approval for an increase in "extraordinary circumstances". This was unfortunate to hear because my provider has subsidized our fees with their personal wages for several years out of a spirit of generosity and this would further keep her income lower than what anyone would see as fair for their education level and commitment.

I questioned why the ministry would fail my childcare provider so greatly? The answer was that not one multi-age provider was invited to the forum held in October of 2017 to advocate on the behalf of the quality licensed ECE led childcare that I choose to place my children.

As a parent I want my Childcare provider to have autonomy over her childcare program. I want to see her be compensated for their time fairly. I want to see my provider receive ample funding to accommodate reasonable sick time and vacation so they are taking care of themselves, and I want them to be able to hire the very best ECE qualified staff if someone needs to step into their shoes.

As a parent who chose an ECE qualified program, I want my child's educator to be acknowledged for the years of education they have committed to without an income to better the care and education of my

child. I want to see their group program be acknowledged as a group centre with fee reductions and CCOF funding. I want to see them to be able to have fee reductions and operational funding for their own children for the care that they provides for them in her program, because her children deserve to receive, licensed and quality childcare and if their own children use a space in the program, they will have reduced wages, and if they cannot have her children in their program, they would be forced to chose a non licensed LNR to accommodate their hours.

As a parent we want a relief from the cost of childcare fees without a doubt, but not at the expense and on the back of our beloved childcare provider. We value care and commitment our ECE qualified care provider has given to our child and there is no amount of fee reduction that could replace the value of our provider.

Today I stand up support my children's Multi-Age childcare provider in their choice to OPT-OUT until the ministry can give a fair compensation for their much need and much valued work.

Signed,

Concerned Multi-Age childcare client, and parent, and supporter of fair compensation for ECE Multi-Age providers.

From: s.22

Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 7:47 PM

To: MCF Early Years MCF:EX; MCF Info MCF:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX

Cc: Mark.MLA, Melanie LASS:EX

Subject: Re: New Child Care Improvements in BC

April 3, 2018

To: Ministry of Children and Family Development

Hello,

I am writing to you to express concerns regarding the New Child Care Improvements in BC.

s.22

neighborhood of

Vancouver. It was a struggle for our family to find a daycare in our neighborhood that we were comfortable with. We finally found our current daycare, six months after I was due to return to work.

We absolutely love our daycare provider. She runs a registered family daycare that provides the care we would want for our s.22 Our daycare is one of the more expensive ones. But we really like the type of care our s.22 receives and there were no other spaces available for care.

There are also not many options in our neighborhood for daycares. This is frustrating because there are many families with small children in our area. There is only one daycare centre for children under 3 servicing our area. There are a handful of family daycares, most are full, or have conditions that I felt were not appropriate for small children.

When I first heard about the Province of BC announcing a relief for families with children in daycares I was very excited. We do not qualify for the subsidy because our income is above the threshold to qualify (however we are not very well off by any means because of the high cost of housing and daycare). It would be such a relief to have support from the provincial government to help with our monthly daycare fees. It sounded like it would be such a simple process for everyone involved.

Following the announcement of the daycare fee reduction program, I spoke to our daycare provider. She sounded surprised as she did not know of this initiative. But she was very interested because she wanted to help provide relief to the families of children in her daycare.

I finally got an update from our daycare provider towards the end of March, after she's had the chance to review all of the requirements for the fee reduction. She has sadly decided not to opt in at this time. Although the idea sounds simple enough, there is much in the background that would put her in a tough position if she opts in. I appreciate where she's coming from. She is a one person-operation, she does all of her own paperwork. The fee reduction program adds additional administrative workload to her filings. Any accidental oversight from an increase in steps and paperwork could unfairly penalize her livelihood. Something that daycare centres would likely not have an issue with because of additional support/administrative staff.

And why do daycare centres get to provide a higher fee reduction? Is the province so out of touch with the people that the Ministry does not realize how impossible it is to get into a group centre? The fee reduction program is going to make wait lists for daycare centres even longer and admission even more competitive. If there are good reasons, they should be communicated to the parents.

There also seems to be a lack of organization with how the program was rolled out. The daycares were not prepared and parents are getting frustrated with daycares because of lack of commitment to opt in. The daycares are trying to get information from the government but there are no clear answers and their concerns are not being addressed. If there was some sort of consultation with care providers, it seems like it did not fully represent the larger community of providers.

As a parent I am quite upset with how the Province is handling this initiative. It may sound wonderful in theory but in practice it is only benefiting a small number of families. I have been supporting the NDP for many years because I believed the NDP stands up for the working families. The launch of this initiative has not been representative of how I believed the NDP would help British Columbians.

With this letter, I am requesting the Ministry take action to facilitate the roll out of the New Child Care Improvements in BC so that the maximum number of families actually benefits from this program. I fully believe that quality child care can allow parents be positive and productive members of the workforce, which creates a more prosperous society for all of us.

Sincerely,

s.22

Cc: Hon. Melanie Mark

From:s.22

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 12:34 PM

To: MCF Child Care Operating Fund, MCF:EX

Cc: Chen.MLA, Katrina LASS:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX

Subject: Fw: Re: questions regarding receipts and new child care improvements in BC

Hello,

I am writing to ask how to get the \$350 off of my daycare cost if my current daycare provider doesn't want to opt in the CCOF program. This is not fair for the families who has kids in daycares but those daycares are not willing to opt in the program. How come this type of family benefits have to rely on daycare provider's decision?

Cheers,

s.22

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Bluebird Group Daycare Centre <bluebird_daycare@yahoo.ca>

To:s.22

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018, 11:59:53 AM PDT

Subject: Re: questions regarding receipts and new child care improvements in BC

H's.22

Receipts for payments for the 2018 calendar year are issued by the end of February 2019.

We don't issue receipts on a monthly basis for payments received.

At this time, we have not opted into the program. Fees are still the same as what is currently listed on our website, and what you were told at the time of registration.

As previously mentioned, if we are changing rates or if payments will be different, we will inform parents with as much notice as possible

Sincerely,
Puran Bagheri

Supervisor - ECE, I/T, S/N, Montessori
Bluebird Daycare Centre
P: 604.988.8117
F: 604.988.8517

www.BluebirdDaycare.ca

On Monday, March 12, 2018, 10:23:20 a.m. PDT, s.22

wrote:

Hi David,

Can you please provide the receipts for my daycare deposit (\$1,360 on Feb 22) and the March daycare fee (\$1,310 on Mar 02)? Thank you.

Friday I was talking to Puran about the NDP governments new day care fee reductions which starts on April 01, 2018. She doesn't know if Bluebird is enrolled in the Child Care Operating Funding or not. If you are in the program, then parents should see the fee reduction (\$350 per month for Infant /Toddler care) on April 01. If not, I am wondering if you are planning to participate in the fee reduction initiative so that I can adjust my monthly cheques for you?

New Child Care Improvements in B.C.

New Child Care Improvements in B.C.

Child care information for parents and providers & partners

Cheers,

s.22

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:30 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Good intention but parent ends up paying more

To whom it may concern,

Writing from a frustrated parent. I understand you have good intention to reduce child care fees for us. But I'm ending up paying more for child care services.

My child enrolls in a daycare 4x per week. To enroll full time 5x per week will cost me an extra \$180 per month. We opted to take vacation days to cover that 1 day per week.

My child care facility just informed us they will no longer provide part time child care because they are trying to register to BC Government's Childcare Operating Funding which they state require all children under their care to be full time participants. I now have the option to either switch my child to full daycare or leave.

In addition, they will be hiking their rate because their landlord is increasing their rent. So even if they may or may not give us a Parent Fee reduction, it may be still be status quo or cost even more because of the rent increase.

Somewhere out there, may it be the child care facility or the landlord, someone is taking advantage of your funding offering. And us the parents are not benefiting.

Sincerely,

s.22

From: s.22
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 11:46 AM
To: Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX
Cc: Minister, MCF MCF:EX; CC Minister MCF:EX; Chandel Diebold
Subject: Childcare in Vancouver Fairview

Dear Minister Heyman,

We are constituents in your Vancouver Fairview riding. We are happily also the parents of an s.22
Unhappily, we are victim to the childcare situation in
Vancouver.

We appreciate the intent of the efforts announced by your Government in the 2018 Provincial Budget. However, given the situation that we find ourselves in, the Budget announcements makes our situation worse rather than better.

Knowing the the difficulties in Vancouver, when we found out that we were pregnant with s.22 we spent a significant amount of time trying to arrange childcare for when our then unborn daughter would be one (in 2 weeks). This included making over 25 applications to daycares - including sending in applications prior to us telling even tell our families.

To facilitate this we spent hundreds of dollars in application fees and even developed a spreadsheet to track the applications that we made. All of which to say that we were on to it, and did everything we could think of to try and find daycare.

However, all of this effort has come to nothing. Despite the over 25 applications to daycares we were not offered a single fulltime spot for s.22

In the document "Child Care B.C. Caring for Kids, Lifting Up Families" it notes that "There are already too few licensed spaces for the number of children in need. Some parents even put their children on wait lists for child care before their children are born, and still don't get a space when they need one."

It is this unfortunate situation that we find ourselves in now.

The closest we appear to have come is at a daycare where they appear to have ignored their waitlist and provided a spot to someone further down the waitlist for reasons not yet explained – we are currently waiting for a formal response from that daycare about this matter which we may raise to you if we do not get satisfaction.

Regardless of the particularities of that situation, you should know that getting into a licensed group child care is at best a lottery and at worst an exercise of who you know. The patchwork of waitlists and processes is an incredibly poor way of allocating scarce public resources and from what we have seen is prone to abuse of process.

The announcement by your Government that starting on April 1, 2018, parents with children in licensed care will be eligible for a fee reductions of up to \$350/month for group infant/toddler care is great for those who have won the childcare lottery. It does nothing to help those of us that despite our best efforts have lost.

We are aware that improving access to childcare is a key plank of your budget announcement and we support this long term solution. However, we need relief now.

Instead of reinforcing the prize for winning a spot at a licensed day care by reducing the fees we urge you to provide a direct grant of the same amount (\$350 per month) to all parents of children of this age.

By necessity, we have been forced into child care arrangements which are not our preference and are more expensive. The only family we have in the Province are seniors who are unable to assist. In order to keep our jobs and our increasingly tenuous toehold in Vancouver we have no choice but to pay for expensive child care.

We are at the limits of our patience with the child care system and have seriously considered relocating out of Province over this matter. We know solutions will take time, but in the meantime please don't make the winners win more and the losers get nothing.

We are copying this email to your colleagues Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy and Minister of State for Child Care Katrina Chen.

Regards,

s.22

From: s.22

Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 1:41 PM

To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine <Katrine.Conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Child Care

Minister, re the recent child care \$153M funding announcement, can you please tell me how this expenditure is to be funded?

\$153M is huge sum of money for 1,370 children. I understand this money will fund other child care services.

I also understand the need to help fund child care as there are always special needs and we are a very caring and socialist province. However \$153M is a lot of money and I would hope it's not just another add on to the deficit.

s.22

From: s.22
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 4:02 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Cc: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX
Subject: An outrageous CEFA rates hike

Dear Minister,

Could you please release a statement/comment on CEFA's rates hike that is shockingly high and timed to grab all of the money that were supposed to help parents to pay their tuition fees?

CEFA parents will appreciate your involvement and the pressure you can create on CEFA's CEO Natacha Beim.

Here is the CTV News coverage:

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/parents-question-timing-of-outrageous-daycare-fee-hike-1.3825448>

Best Regards,

s.22

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s.22

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 11:20 AM

To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Chen.MLA, Katrina LASS:EX

Cc: Simons.MLA, Nicholas LASS:EX

Subject: child care fees in private for profit franchised business chains

I have watched the CTV news report and read the accompanying article. <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/parents-question-timing-of-outrageous-daycare-fee-hike-1.3825448>

Not only is the timing of the steep fee increase suspect, but I believe the motives are as well. This business model of child care doesn't in my opinion reflect the best interests of children, families and child care workers, or the building of an affordable, quality, accountable child care system in BC.

Right from the beginning implementation of the new funding plan for licensed child care in BC, your ministry will need to rule out the eligibility of such businesses that operate with such motives and intend to manipulatively access government funds to enable their plans.

Sadly, it will likely result in short term pain, but for long term gain in our communities and across BC for children and families. You will need to be bold!

There is NO room for the "let them eat cake" profit endeavours and attitudes of such an owner operator to be supported by government funding!

Sincerely

s.22

From: s.22

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:50 PM

To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine <Katrine.Conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Raising rates

Are child care providers legally allowed to raise their rates due to the new child care improvements in BC?

We are in a predicament where the child care provider we have for our s.22 in Kelowna BC wants to increase her rates from \$950.00 a month to \$1,100.00 a month a up to reap the benefits of the new agreement rather than the parents getting a financial break from the higher child care costs.

Thanks in advanced,

A concerned father.

From: s.22

Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 11:13 PM

To: MCF Child Care Operating Fund, MCF:EX

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Sultan.MLA, Ralph LASS:EX; CC Minister MCF:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; newsonline@ctv.ca; news@ctv.ca; newschannel@ctv.ca

Subject: Fw: Bluebird Daycare Rate Change

Hello,

My son's daycare decided not to opt in the child care fee reduction initiative BUT will increase the daycare fees. What should I do in order to get the fee reduction? What can you do to help out the families like us. Will you be able to get the daycare provider to change their mind?

Cheers,

s.22

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Bluebird Group Daycare Centre <bluebird_daycare@yahoo.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 2:53:51 PM PDT

Subject: Bluebird Daycare Rate Change

Hello Parents,

Please find enclosed an update letter about rate changes.

We will be contacting those that pay by cheque later this month to change cheques for June 1st to the new amounts.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Puran Bagheri

Supervisor - ECE, I/T, S/N, Montessori
Bluebird Daycare Centre
P: 604.988.8117
F: 604.988.8517

www.BluebirdDaycare.ca

1434 Woods Drive T: 604 988 8117

North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 1A7 F: 604 988 8517

April 3, 2018

Re: Rate Change effective June 1, 2018

We will be increasing our rates as of June 1, 2018. We generally schedule annual rate increases around June. However, last year we did not increase our rates and our current rates have been in effect since July 2016. We pride ourselves on providing affordable childcare and therefore we make every effort to keep rate increases at a minimum. Nevertheless, we recognize that rate increases are necessary at times, and as such, we have aimed to align this increase with inflation rates. The new rates can be found at the end of this letter.

Additionally, as you may be aware, the Child Care Operating Funding ("CCOF") launched the Fee Reduction Initiative as of April 1, 2018. Childcare providers have the choice to "opt-in" to this program which aims to lower parent fees by providing funding directly to childcare providers. With this program, a daycare could receive upwards of 25% of their monthly revenues from the government. In our past experience of receiving operating subsidies, the government has been unable to meet its self-imposed timelines in issuing funds – sometimes up to a month late.

Over the past few weeks, we have been reviewing the details of the Fee Reduction Initiative and participated in information sessions. We have expressed our concerns to CCOF about the potential delays in receiving the funds, and how it could impact our employees and business operations. Despite our concerns, the government has refused to provide any written assurances or contractual obligations that funding would be provided in a timely manner.

Keeping our fees low means that we have narrower margins and as such, we cannot risk receiving funds late from the government. This would hinder our obligations to our staff and creditors and impact our ability to provide a high standard of care to our families. We have accordingly decided not to opt-in to the program at this time. Should you wish to obtain further information from the government, you may contact Mr. Jonathan Barry, Executive Director of the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre at 250 387-7762 or at mcf.ccof@gov.bc.ca.

We are hopeful that with feedback from childcare providers and parents, the government will make changes to the initiative that would allow us to opt-in without compromising our cash-flow obligations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Puran Bagheri

Owner

Bluebird Group Daycare Centre

Bluebird Group Daycare Centre

1434 Woods Drive North Vancouver BC V7R 1A7 Telephone/Téléphone: (604) 988 8117

CHILDCARE RATES*

2 Days/week

3 Days/week

4 Days/week

Full-Time

Infants (0-11 months)

\$770

\$985

\$1250

\$1430

Toddlers (12-35 Months)

\$770

\$985

\$1250

\$1365

Pre-Schoolers (3-5 Years)

\$650

\$860

\$1015

\$1120

Drop In (Day Rate)

\$115

*Prices subject to change without notice

*Additional fees may be added periodically

For special needs and infant care, please consult with the centre for more information

*Effective June 1, 2018

From: s.22

Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 6:00 PM

To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX; Dawes, Jacquie MAH:EX; Minister, MAH MAH:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; EDUC DM EDUC:EX

Subject: s.22 - Laura Secord After School Program

Hello Minister Conroy,

We have a situation at Laura Secord Elementary that is playing out across the city of Vancouver and I am sure in other districts in the province.

Section 85.1 of the BC School Act mandates school boards across the province to make available to licensed child care providers underutilized amenities in their schools. The authors of the BC School Act knew parents would need help with care for their kids before and after school because school hours and work hours simply don't match up.

At Laura Secord Elementary an organization called Cedar Cottage is the sole provider of before/after school care for 60 kids at the school.

This is much needed, but not nearly enough. 700 students attend Laura Secord, 60 are in the before/after school program, and there are 120 kids on the waiting list! I spoke to one parent who was fortunate enough to finally get their kid into care with Cedar Cottage. He said they waited FOUR years on the waiting list to get a spot! FOUR YEARS!!

There are two barriers to solving this care shortage problem, and neither of them require money.

First, the Environmental Health Licensing Officer told me that she was instructed by the Vancouver School Board about 9 months ago to stop including school amenities (gyms, libraries, etc) in her calculations for determining the number of licensed care spaces for a facility. This had the immediate impact of reducing licensed care spaces and increasing waiting lists. Amenities at Laura Secord are sitting empty while families sit on waiting lists. You can walk through the halls on any given day and you will see at least one of these large amenities sitting empty (usually all of them are empty). So if the amenities are not being used for school activities, then why did the VSB instruct the licensing officer to stop including them in her calculations? Well, as usual it is all about money. With a huge pile of

education and child care dollars sitting in Victoria waiting to be distributed to the most needy of school boards there is nothing like long waiting lists to help appear needy. (sounds like a Mike Smyth story in the making). The ministry of education needs to remind the VSB of their mandate to follow 85.1.

Secondly, it is important to remember that the kids that need these before/after school care spaces are not babies or toddlers. They are students of that school, but the Licensing Officer is being forced to use the same parameters as if she was licensing for an all-day daycare. This is not appropriate. She is forced to require 3.7 square meters per child. Yet, during the school day these students seem to function just fine without adhering to the same space allotment. When you walk through the cafeteria area where before/after school care kids are located, you will notice that there is seating for 200 kids, but the licensing officer was restricted by the care facility rules to only allow 60 kids to be there. She said this is to allow the kids to "spread out". Well if you walk through there, you will notice they are all huddled together in groups towards one end. Most of the cafeteria is sitting empty. Why is a cafeteria that met the needs of 700 kids during the day, is now only able to support 60 kids. It doesn't make sense and it doesn't work for parents and their children sitting on a waiting list. The Ministry of Children needs to send out a directive to licensing officers to stop treating these students like toddlers and drop the 3.7 square meter requirement.

Parents need to know what is going on regarding these wait lists and the provincial government needs to step up and address these waiting lists today. Thousands of families in Vancouver alone are twisting in the wind waiting for this to be resolved.

Regards,

s.22

Ps The attached email conversation with the VSB is evidence of the underutilization of amenities at Laura Secord Elementary

From: s.22

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 5:31 PM

To: EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca; DM.Education@gov.bc.ca

Cc: premier@gov.bc.ca; SDSI.minister@gov.bc.ca; Jacquie.Dawes@gov.bc.ca; MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca; MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Laura Secord After School Programs

Hello Minister Fleming,

I had an interesting conversation with s.22
s.22

s.22
an after school program leader at Laura Secord elementary in Vancouver.

s.22

s.22 explained to me that the program s.22 is involved in is subsidized and sponsored by the Vancouver School Board. Huh?!

It seems the VSB is involved in offering after school programs. Sounds great right? Working parents at Laura Secord are in desperate need of more before/after school spaces. There is currently a waiting list of over 120 kids!

Well like anything, the devil is in the details.

It seems this "program" only runs for 6-8 weeks at a time. It also only operates from 3-4:30pm Monday-Thursday. There is also a 3 week gap from the end of one program to the beginning of the next program. Oh, and they also don't offer programs in the Summer.

So I asked him the obvious question, "What are working parents supposed to do on Fridays, between programs and during the Summer?".

s.22 said, "I don't know, I guess they make other arrangements".

Oh really, they make other arrangements. I suppose they just tell their boss that, "Hey, by the way I won't be coming in on Fridays or during the Summer and I will be leaving all the other days before 4:30". Nice gig if you can find it.

But s.22 was quick to point out (three times in fact) that the programs were just \$40-\$80 each and they were means tested so that you can simply pay what you can afford.

s.22 explained that these programs had access to the school gym, library and staff room. Which is strange, because those are the same amenities that the VSB told me were simply unavailable.

So it appears these VSB programs that absolutely do not work for parents are taking away desperately needed before/after school care spaces for working parents. The VSB needs to stop working against parents and provide what working parents need.

Regards,

s.22

From: s.22

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 2:28 PM

To: EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca; DM.Education@gov.bc.ca

Cc: premier@gov.bc.ca; SDSI.minister@gov.bc.ca; Jacquie.Dawes@gov.bc.ca; MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca; MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Before/After School Care

Hello,

On page six of the Child Care BC – Frequently Asked Questions document of February 20, 2018 the ministry states:

“Co-locating child care on school grounds is an option that many parents prefer. The Ministry of Children and Family Development will work with the Ministry of Education and school districts to explore new opportunities for co-location.”

As I mention below the BC School Act already mandates school boards to make schools available to licensed child care providers. Co-location is written right into the Act under section 85.1.

Parents don't want a situation where their kids will sit in a class all day and then come 3pm they will sit in another class until their parents come to pick them up. At 3pm kids want to play. They should not be facing a situation where the ministry is planning on relegating them to a form of “detention” after each school day.

Section 85.1 is clear. Allow licensed child care providers access to schools so that they may provide the before/after school care that parents need.

The shortage of Before/After school care does not require any money to solve. The authors of the BC School Act had the solution and even included it in the ACT in section 85.1.

The ministry of education needs to address this urgent situation by instructing school boards to adhere to 85.1.

From: s.22

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 10:02 AM

To: EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca; DM.Education@gov.bc.ca

Cc: premier@gov.bc.ca; SDSI.minister@gov.bc.ca; Jacquie.Dawes@gov.bc.ca; MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca; MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: FW: Before/After School Care - s.22

I am still having difficulty getting through to the Vancouver School Board.

They seem determined to get more money out of the provincial government to solve a problem that does not require any money to solve.

Could someone from the province please remind the VSB of their mandate. The School Act is clear. Eight-five point one is clear.

The VSB must make it known to parents and licensed childcare providers that school facilities are available for before/after school childcare.

Regards,

s.22

From: s.22

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 4:32 PM

To: 'Lisa Dominato' <Lisa.Dominato@vsb.bc.ca>

Cc: 'Judith Zaichkowsky' <Judith.Zaichkowsky@vsb.bc.ca>; allan.wong@vsb.bc.ca; estrellita.gonzalez@vsb.bc.ca; ken.clement@vsb.bc.ca; carrie.bercic@vsb.bc.ca; 'Fraser Ballantyne' <Fraser.Ballantyne@vsb.bc.ca>; joy.alexander@vsb.bc.ca; 'Janet Fraser' <Janet.Fraser@vsb.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Before/After School Care - s.22

Thank you Lisa for your attention to this.

My fear is that the VSB is making this far more complicated than it needs to be and as a result the VSB is missing the intent of section 85.1.

Eighty-five point one is not instructing school boards to build new/additional accommodations. It is instructing school boards to make existing facilities available to licensed care providers. That's it.

The same facility that was accommodating the kids at 2:59pm is the same facility that is to be made available to those same kids at 3:01pm. That's it.

The way I envision 85.1 (and I sense the authors):

- Licensed care providers who have registered with the school will operate on school grounds
- Parents will decide which care provider they wish to place their child with. Parent will pay that provider directly.
- Each care professional will have up to six kids under their immediate care. That professional will decide where they will go and what they will do each day. I would assume most days will begin with them going outside (weather permitting). Before school, most kids want to run around. After school, most kids want to run around. Sometimes they may go to the gym, other times they may go to the library, other times they may work in a classroom. It would be up to the care professional.

Simple.

The VSB is just providing the facility. That's it. They are not creating more programs, they are not providing staff, they are not creating new designated child care facilities. Just the existing facility, as it is at 2:59pm.

There is no need for delay. There is no need to involve the provincial government. The school act is clear.

All the VSB has to do is make it known to licensed child care providers that school facilities are available to them. That is what 85.1 says and that is what parents need.

s.22

From: Lisa Dominato [<mailto:Lisa.Dominato@vsb.bc.ca>]

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 3:21 PM

To: s.22

Subject: Re: Before/After School Care - s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your very sincere email regarding the challenges you have faced finding before/after school care for s.22. You are certainly not alone in this challenge and we are aware the current number of before/after school spaces do not meet the demand.

I'm in full agreement with you that schools are public assets and where we have space, we should try to accommodate before/after school care providers. Many of our elementary schools already offer before/after school care on site.

As a board, we have identified childcare generally and before/after school care specifically as an issue we need to look at in the context of our facilities. We met recently with Minister Rob Fleming and engaged him discussion on how we can ensure our new and renovated schools incorporate space to accommodate before/after school care needs.

I know our Chair was following up with staff and committed to get back to you with more information. I will ensure that your concerns are shared with staff and trustees to inform our facilities discussions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dominato, Trustee

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From: s.22

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:17:25 AM

To: Lisa Dominato

Subject: Before/After School Care -s.22

s.22

s.22 a regular kid with two working parents living in a small condominium in East Vancouver. We each took advantage of the maternal/paternal leave when s.22

When it came time to find daycare we had very little difficulty (despite the prevailing beliefs regarding scarcity). There were lots of places offering daycare. Some were full, some were expensive, some were sketchy, but with little effort we found an excellent in-home daycare offered by some very experienced grandparents just s.22 It was just \$870/mth (and that included some very nice home cooked meals). It worked.

A few years later when s.22 grew this first daycare (they specialized in toddlers and s.22) we were once again on the hunt for a new s.22 . And again we thought we were going to have difficulty. And again in less than a week we found two suitable daycares within s.22 home. The one we choose was just \$920/mth. There were lots of kids for s.22 and we could drop s.22 off any time after 7:30am and pickup any time before 5:30pm. It worked.

Eventually it was time to begin preparing for the start of kindergarten in September. We enrolled s.22 in Laura Secord elementary s.22

We knew we needed before and after school care. In s.22 2017 s.22 on the waiting lists of the three child care providers that offer before/after school care to Laura Secord. s.22 s.22

Few daycares can afford the expense of vans and insurance to transport children twice a day to school. The logistics is just too much. Lakeview daycare has expressed interest, but they ran into too much red tape so they decide to stick with regular daycare services.

September came and s.22 was nowhere near getting into one of these before/after school daycares. One of us had to leave our job. I made arrangements with my employer to work from home (at far reduced hours) and took the opportunity to take some online courses.

We are now in s.22 2018 and s.22 is still nowhere near getting into any of these daycares and the reduced family income is really hurting.

The current system is not working.

As a parent who has been through this whole exercise I feel I know better than anyone what the issues are and what the solution is.

The solution is not more money. In fact the solution does not require any money at all. It only requires political will.

We need to open up all elementary schools to all before/after school providers and we need to do it now.

Right now only a select few providers are allowed to operate in the schools (I don't know who decides which providers are granted this preferred access and I don't really care). But these schools belong to the tax payers of the community and they need to serve the needs of the community. Right now this is not happening.

I certainly can't be the first person who has suggested this, so I will try to address what I can only imagine are some of the excuses for not moving ahead with this:

1. "Schools can't provide before/after school care for insurance reasons."

That does not make any sense. Why it is these kids are perfectly safe and insured from 9-3pm, but suddenly after 3pm it is far too dangerous to be on the premises. Every daycare provider has their own insurance and this would remain true if they were operating in school facilities.

2. "The municipality can't afford to provide before/after school daycare staff."

We're not talking about the municipality providing staff. Parents would be paying the care providers directly for their services. The municipality is only providing the school facility (for a small fee to the care provider). Remembering of course that these facilities belong to the tax payers and are intended to meet the needs of the taxpayers (in this case the parents). Parents would choose the type of provider they wish. Some providers may specialize in academics, others may focus on physical activities, some may have an emphasis on art and music. It doesn't matter,

it is up to the parents to decide what type of before/after school care they want for their child. The municipality is simply providing the facility, that's it.

3. "This would result in undue wear and tear on the facilities."
Nonsense. These facilities would be doing what they were designed to do, provide for kids! The fees charged to providers would help offset any "costs".
4. "The facilities are already contractually obligated to some other group at that time."
Night classes don't start until the evening, boy and girl scouts can share the facility, etc.
5. "Teachers need the classrooms to prepare for the next day's lesson"
An English teacher does not need a classroom to prepare for a lesson. A math teacher does not need a classroom to prepare for a lesson. Before/After school care would only require a very few classrooms for the kids. Most kids are old enough to leave school on their own. It is only those kids needing before/after school care that would need a place to gather on those days when the weather does not permit them to go outside. Kids have been in class all day, they don't want to sit in a classroom anyways. They want to go outside and play with their friends.
6. "The schools have never been used for before/after school care before."
So?
7. "The cleaning and maintenance staff have a contract to do their work starting at 3pm"
That's just an excuse. There are groups using these facilities at the end of the school day now. How does that work for them?
8. "It is not my office's jurisdiction."
It doesn't matter if it is your jurisdiction or not, as far as the public is concerned you are seen to have a role in this. That is why you have received this email. Perception is reality.

Elementary schools need to be opened up now! There are thousands of parents stuck with no way forward.

The solution is simple. Please use your influence to make this happen.

Thank you

s.22