



MAYOR'S OFFICE

OCT 16 2017

VICTORIA, B.C.

Ref: 233972

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter outlining the initiatives that the City of Victoria is undertaking and some ways that the City and the Province can collaborate in the area of child care. As the Minister of State for Child Care, I am happy to respond.

Let me begin by saying that I appreciate all of the work you are doing as Mayor of the City of Victoria to create a vibrant, livable and affordable community, including your interest in supporting the development of child care spaces. We understand the importance of providing affordable, quality spaces to families to enable them to work and study. This year, through the Child Care Major Capital Funding Program, the province will assist in the creation of up to 4,100 new child care spaces. We are also examining the ways to accelerate the creation of new licensed child care spaces over the coming years.

Our new British Columbia government is committed to building a universal, quality, and affordable child care system. We recognize the value of quality child care and early learning programs for children's holistic development, to enhance their ability to succeed at school and beyond and to contribute to society. The new system will provide safe, affordable, accessible and high-quality care and early learning to every child whose family wants or needs it – starting with infant/toddler programs. We will provide additional investments in the Early Childhood Educator workforce through training, education and fair wages to enhance and ensure quality.

As you can imagine, developing a new universal child care system is a complex undertaking, and the details of how this new system will be implemented are not yet finalized. That is why we are talking to key stakeholders – from child care providers and advocates to educators, parents and local governments, to agree on priorities for how we implement the new system.

Through the UBCM conference and other meetings I have heard from many British Columbia municipalities. I commend your initiative in creating a Child Care Solutions Working Group in Victoria to develop timelines and tasks for creating more affordable child care spaces in Victoria. My staff will be contacting you soon to discuss how we can best work together towards similar goals for the provision of accessible, affordable, quality child care. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care

Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Minister of State
for Child Care

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9062 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria