

Jeannie Achuff
420 Raynor Ave
Victoria BC
V9A 3A6

September 1, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently become aware of Ms. Ivana Tunklova's plans to relocate her preschool, Victoria Montessori, to a property around the corner from my house on Skinner Rd. I was very excited when I learned of this plan, as my son attended Victoria Montessori at the location it occupied for close to 15 years next to Vic West Elementary.

Vic West is growing and changing rapidly, and as single parent I value deeply what this neighbourhood has to offer as far as community, diversity of services, walkability, and family-friendly assets. Our family has been involved in the tradition of Montessori education for 3 generations and I can attest to the uniqueness of this approach to fostering growth and development for the youngest members of our community. I have come to know a number of families all within walking distance of the old school location, as well as this new proposed location, and I can safely say that the neighbourhood will be, overall, very pleased to keep this particular quality of school in our local community.

While there may be concerns about increased traffic and noise coming from the school, I know the patterns of this program and I know Ms Ivana's commitment to being a good neighbour, so I am confident that she will be an excellent addition to our particular neck of the woods and will work openly with neighbours to create a plan that feels good to everyone.

In summary, this letter is to express my full support and excitement to welcome Victoria Montessori to our little corner of Vic West. I hope that the city grants her requests for rezoning such that she may beautify the property as intended and bring another level of vitality to our locale.

With Kind Regards,



Jeannie Achuff

Hello!

When I recently found out - through a flyer that came in our mailbox - of the possibility of a Montessori School opening in our neighbourhood, I was immediately thrilled!

It will be exciting to see a new hub, devoted entirely to the nurturing of young minds in our community.

Overall I believe this opportunity will increase the familial and community values I want to be surrounded by, and that I see many other neighbourhoods benefit from.

Thank you for taking the time to hear these thoughts and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Morris
415 Raynor Avenue, VicWest:)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Victoria Montessori Preschool
1250 Highrock Ave.
Victoria, BC, V9A 4V7
250.380.0534
victoriamountessori@shaw.ca

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a professional with two young children and I well know the challenges of finding quality, affordable daycare for my children.

I am writing to request that you work with School District 61 to delay the eviction of the Victoria Montessori preschool from its rented facility on the school grounds of Vic West Elementary until the 2018-19 school year (at which time the preschool will relocate to a private, local facility). I recognize that the recent ruling by the Supreme Court on class sizes necessitates the school board to make use of all available space, but in this case such expansion is at the expense of a beloved and desperately needed local childcare facility.

My family is one of 30 that would be directly affected by this eviction. The removal of the Victoria Montessori preschool from our neighbourhood would be a loss to the community and would send us all scrambling for local childcare. The proposed alternative locations for the 2017-18 are a considerable distance from its current location, and do not offer the same resources. This is a challenge for the majority of us who depend on local childcare accessible without a vehicle.

In the words of your party's leader John Horgan, the lack of affordable childcare in this province is a crisis. Evicting the Victoria Montessori preschool and **relocating it outside of the neighbourhood would remove one of the few preschools in our community.** Finding childcare is difficult and stressful, and I worked hard to find a preschool that was the right fit for my spirited preschooler. **The location of the Victoria Montessori Preschool and the excellent care and curriculum suit the needs of my child perfectly, and my child could not be happier. It would be a major disruption to my son and our family to have the Victoria Montessori preschool removed from our neighbourhood, even temporarily.**

Sincerely,
Sandy Allen

To Whom It May Concern

It has come to my attention that Victoria Montessori Preschool space is being affected by the recent Supreme Court's decision, threatening school's existence at the current location. Both my children are enrolled at Victoria Montessori and as such, this issue is of critical importance to me. I am writing in support of Ivana Tunklova and Victoria Montessori Preschool. **It is very difficult to find high quality early childhood education in Victoria that would be on par with Victoria Montessori.**

Thank you!
Sincerely,
Vanja Petrovic



Victoria Montessori Preschool
1250 Highrock Ave.
Victoria, BC, V9A 4V7
250.380.0534
victoriamontessori@shaw.ca

To Whom It May Concern

We are greatly opposed to the idea of moving the Victoria Montessori Preschool from its present location. First and foremost of course is how this will affect our daughter. There are many reasons why we chose this school, and why she is so happy there, but **the location was a key factor.** The classroom is a very nice space with lots of natural light and a perfect fit for the number of students. The outside area is wonderful and as a parent I appreciate so much that my three year old has such a safe outside area to play in. Not every playground is that safe where children have the freedom to play without worry. Furthermore, our daughter took a very long time to adapt to attending school and I am concerned that a new location will make it all very difficult for her again.

It does not make sense to put a preschool classroom in a school with pre-teens. At such a vulnerable age, I do not want my daughter on a playground with 12 and 13 year olds. I have never before seen a mix of a preschool and a middle school - because it is a bad idea!

A change in location will also negatively affect our bike commute to and from work. It will take longer to get to the new proposed location from downtown on the bike and this will negatively impact my work schedule. I also am concerned about having a safe, covered place to lock the bike trailer. Bike trailers are targets for thieves and I appreciate that we can safely leave ours at the current location.

Perhaps if the appropriation announcement had been made earlier it would have been more acceptable, but this is extremely short notice for a very significant change. As a parent I have no option to find a new preschool if we do not like the new location. Daycare space is almost as difficult to find as a rental in Victoria, and we have already committed to next school year - in its current location!

Moving the school will cause our daughter and us a lot of difficulties. We ask you to please reconsider and leave the school where it is for just one more year.

Sincerely,
Nancy Wyeth and Cosme Esparza

To Whom It May Concern,

As you know, British Columbia -- particularly fast-developing areas like Victoria -- is suffering from a shortage of licensed childcare spaces. While parents of children at Victoria Montessori consider themselves lucky to have access to such high-quality care, this isn't a luxury for our families. We as parents all depend on this childcare so that we can work and sustain reliable employment. **Many of us have chosen Victoria Montessori not just for its excellent reputation, but also because of its location near our homes or workplaces. A change in location, if far from the centre's current site, would pose significant hardship for families who may be forced to find alternative care where there isn't much to spare in this city.**

Sincerely,
Sutton Eaves
150 Memorial Crescent
Victoria, BC



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1250 Highrock Ave.
Victoria, BC, V9A 4V7
250.380.0534
victoriamountessori@shaw.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

We are a family who would be impacted by the School District's recent decision regarding the space currently occupied by Victoria Montessori Preschool at Vic West Elementary. It is our understanding that the preschool has purchased a house in the area that will be hopefully ready in time for the 2018/2019 school year.

Our 4-year-old son currently attends Victoria Montessori Preschool, will be attending over the summer and is enrolled for the 2017/2018 school year. We are two working parents and also have a 20-month-old daughter who we are fortunate to have cared for by extended family. Finding a preschool that met the needs of our entire family (including extended family) was a challenging process, so we were thrilled and relieved to get a spot at Victoria Montessori when our son was 2.

We chose Victoria Montessori because it had an excellent reputation, and the location was very convenient in relation to our workplaces and our daughters' caregivers, especially as we rely on assistance from extended family with respect to pick ups and drop offs. Another important consideration in choosing Victoria Montessori was its private classroom and fully enclosed and secure yard and playground for the children. Our son has flourished in his first year at this school and we are confident that this will continue in his second year. He had a long period of adjustment and anxiety when he first began attending out-of-home care and we are concerned that a move will cause more stress.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Anne and Curtis Vogt