

To: Honourable Linda Reid, the Minister of State for Child Care
Honourable Tom Christensen, the Minister of Children and Family
Development
Honourable Carole Taylor, Minister of Finance
Premier Gordon Campbell
Honourable Raj Chouhan, MLA Burnaby Edmonds

via e-mail

Honourable Sir/ Honourable Madam:

We are writing to you to ask for reinstatement of the provincial funding for Westcoast Mobile Lending library beyond the boundaries of the city of Vancouver. We have been informed this funding will end as of April 30, 2007.

All of us, parents and caregivers at a neighbourhood Parenting and Family Literacy Centre, currently use service that Westcoast Mobile Lending provides at the location at Twelfth Avenue Elementary School. We feel that this community partnership, established at the beginning of this school year, provides service that complements the Literacy Centre objectives. It gives parents /caregivers opportunities to extend what they learned at Literacy Centre and use quality toys/books to enhance the enjoyment of learning and playing together.

We highly value Mobile Lending service provided and there are several reasons why. The toys and books are of great quality; there is a nice variety too. They also cover wide age span, from baby toys/books to older preschoolers. Most toys/games or puzzles are matched up with a theme-related book to further language learning and to encourage parent/child interaction. We also appreciate very much variety of parent handbooks/references. Knowledgeable staff with an expertise in early child development was always ready to match the toy with child's interest/age and help with an advice.

For some of us, the reason why we chose the service is that otherwise we could not afford to buy the kind of materials and the wide variety of books Westcoast Mobile supplies. The yearly fee of five dollars is affordable for everyone. For some of us the reason is that we would like to offer our children variety of toys and explore their interests and expend the knowledge without buying new toy every two weeks. For all of us it is the fact that by borrowing the toys not only we keep our houses less toy-crowded but also that by doing that we do our share by reducing, reusing and recycling and not piling up unwanted and outgrown toys in our landfills.

We think that money invested early in wide variety of services for young children and families is always very well spent! Therefore, we are voting for reinstalling the funds for Westcoast Mobile Lending services.

Parents and families - users of Westcoast Mobile Lending Services
At the 12th Avenue Parenting and Family Literacy Centre