

*[excerpted]*

April 2007

Dear Premier Campbell:

*[...]* These decisions will result in the elimination of important services for children, families and child care providers in Vancouver and throughout the Province....They represent an attack on an important part of the child care policy and children's agenda that you created as Mayor of Vancouver and, I believe, an attack on the belief that positive, principled and effective advocacy for children and families is something to be supported rather than ignored and silenced.

*[...]* Let me share some details that speak to the impacts of the funding decisions.

*[...]* The Westcoast Library is magical, vibrant place full of books, journals, videos and materials essential to the training of new caregivers, to ongoing professional development and research in child care and early childhood development, and to a culture of learning in our field that recognizes that high quality caregiving requires both head and heart. It is the best Early Childhood professional library in Western Canada and probably in all of Canada and its special focus on multicultural and diversity resources make it doubly unique. And the Westcoast Library is always full of people. Whenever I am in Vancouver I always get to Westcoast to enjoy both the books and the people. With provincial funding the Westcoast Library is fully available to me and others throughout the province - online, with mailing services, and with trained staff to support me in finding resources.

As I was reading a current issue of *Young Children* (a key professional journal) this weekend I jumped ahead to the Resource/Bibliography section of an article that was especially of interest to me. In the past I would think with confidence that these additional resources would be readily available to me through Westcoast. No longer, with the elimination of provincial funding!

Both as Mayor and as Premier you have supported a vision of enhancing Child Care and Early Childhood Development services for all children and families. I am asking that you work with your colleagues in the Ministry of Children & Family Development to reconsider and reverse these unnecessary, damaging and punitive decisions.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely

Peter Ashmore, ECE