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April 10, 2007

To:

Premier Gordon Campbell
Honourable Tom Christensen, Minister of children and Family Development
Honourable Linda Reid, the Minister of State for Child Care

It has come to my attention that a number of the families who attend the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House Family drop-in programs will be directly impacted by recent Childcare funding cuts to the WestCoast Mobile Lending Library service.

The Neighbourhood House is a community partner in this project and has worked with WestCoast Childcare Resource Centre for the past two years to allow families in our community to access materials from the Lending library resources. Families with young children have been benefiting from an excellent selection of educational toys and puzzles and books for children and parents. This has been such a valuable service especially in Burnaby where 1 in 3 children are living in poverty and where families do not have the resources to equip their homes with these valuable learning materials. Unfortunately, this great resource will be ending in Burnaby as of April 30th.

I have been hearing from parents who are very disappointed that this service will no longer be available. On behalf of our organization and our families, I would therefore urge you to reconsider this decision and to restore the funding to this valuable WestCoast program.

Sincerely,

Antonia Beck
Executive Director