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educators of BC

ECEBC calls for Integrating the Early Childhood Education Professional and Programs into the Ministry of Education

Open Letter to Honourable Premier John Horgan

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Dear Honourable Horgan,

The Early Childhood Educators of BC(ECEBC) would like to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to you and your party's successful election. We are thrilled that you have made a continued commitment to build a child care system in BC and are here to offer a *Plan of Action to Integrating the Early Childhood Education Professional and Programs into the Ministry of Education*. For over 50 years this association has been a leader and committed body for the profession. We are looking forward to working with you on key elements that will support families, children and educators in the coming months and years.

Building on the pioneering research, policy recommendations and advocacy of the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care Learning, popularly known as the \$10aDay Child Care Plan, ECEBC proposes that early childhood education becomes a publicly funded education program under the Ministry of Education's sole responsibility. This plan-of-action is in keeping with the BC Government's position "to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy" and in recognition that the BC government will honour its duty to consult with Indigenous peoples as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and Indigenous Early Learning Child Care Framework (IELCCF).

ECEBC encourages the Ministry of Education to take inspiration in the vision, principles, and pathways to learning outlined in the BC Early Learning Framework and the elements laid out in the \$10aDay Child Care Plan. ECEBC calls for the Ministry of Education to develop an Early Childhood Education Act and an Early Childhood Educator Act, both aligned with the BC Early Learning Framework. While the Early Childhood Education Act will set out how the fully publicly funded system is governed and regulated, the Early Childhood Educator Act will clearly define who can practice as a professional in this integrated system as well as the conditions in which they are to work with young and school-aged children.

ECEBC's integration plan supports the current work and vision of the BC government to provide inclusive, accessible, and high-quality early care and learning programs and school aged-care programs. This position recognizes the government's commitment to inclusion and the role early childhood educators have in the Ministry of Education.

As a non-partisan society, ECEBC is ready and committed to support all levels of government to share our research and experiences as we navigate this next chapter of early care and learning in this province. We hope you will share this document with your new cabinet when assigned and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Emily Gawlick
Executive Director ECEBC



Violet Jessen
Chair ECEBC