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March 19, 2020

Dear Premier Horgan, Minister Dix, Minister Conroy, Minister Chen, Dr. Bonnie Henry,

With the announcement of the “State of Emergency” yesterday and the increasing threat that is coming, we felt it necessary to speak up and implore our government officials to provide the child care industry with aid.

As one of the largest privately-owned child care organizations in British Columbia, entering our 25<sup>th</sup> year of operation, employing almost 200 Early Childhood Educators, and providing over 1000 child care spaces, we felt it important to align with our fellow Child care Directors in expressing our frustration and disappointment in the lack of support and information that is being provided to our industry at this time. There is increasing concern for the children we care for and our “front of the line” employees who are being put at increased risk without being provided support, guidance or protection.

Although a sizable industry, the Child care sector, who have been deemed an “essential service” during this very trying time, have been largely forgotten and we are feeling very alone in navigating this crisis. We have listened intently to the daily announcements and instructions being given by our health officials and all levels of government. However, we have left each of these broadcasts disheartened with being provided little, to no guidance. We have heard how our services are integral during this time, and how we need to keep our doors open to support essential service workers. We have educators who are showing up to work each day at great personal risk, but there has been no transparency in the plan being provided to support them and the children they are caring for. Although there have been clear instructions given to the public by our health officials, there appears to be a blind eye when it comes to being able to provide these safety measures within a child care environment.

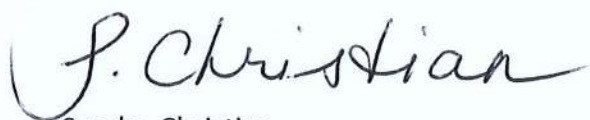
Child care spaces and Early Childhood Educators are in great need in this province, and we are in great danger of losing both due to the inability for child care centres to weather this storm. Without an action plan in place to provide financial support to providers, we will lose the ability to remain open. Parents are struggling with not only their own financial emergencies but also their concern for their children in care during this health crisis. This combination is disastrous to the child care industry. We need our health officials and government to provide transparency

regarding the plan to support keeping our doors open now and for the long run. We cannot expect our educators to put themselves at great personal risk and not be able to provide them with answers about their safety and job security. We also need to be able to provide our families with answers about the state of their child care spaces and the safety of their children. We need this information and we need it now!

This may be one of the greatest challenges that we will ever see in our lifetimes, but together and united we will overcome it, stronger and with increased respect for our industry.

We look forward to the response in addressing these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Christian". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sandra Christian  
President/Founder  
Creative Kids Learning Centers