



Affordable Child Care Policy

Date of Adoption: April 4, 2013

Date of Expiration: April 4, 2016

Whereas, Canada ranks last among developed countries in supporting quality early care and learning Programs; and

Whereas, BC has licensed child care spaces for only about 20 per cent of children; and

Whereas, fees are high because—unlike libraries, parks and schools that receive public funds to cover most of operating costs—child care is primarily a user fee service; and

Whereas, even high fees paid by parents aren't enough to pay early childhood educators a living wage, so many have to find other work to support their families; and

Whereas, most BC mothers with young children are in the paid labour force, their participation rates are lower than the Canadian average; and

Whereas, BC mothers whose youngest child is age 3 to 15 have the lowest labour force participation in Canada, mothers whose youngest child is 2 and under have the second lowest participation rate; and

Whereas, currently BC has among the highest child care fees in the country while average undergraduate tuition fees at BC's universities are \$5,000 annually...families with a 2 year old child will pay on average \$9,000 annually in child care fees and those with a 4 year old pay \$7,000. Families in large cities such as Vancouver pay an average of \$14,000 for child care for their toddler. Meanwhile, Manitoba families pay only \$4,500 and Quebec families pay \$1,800 for both age groups¹; and

Whereas, the \$10 a Day Child Care Plan addresses all these concerns with a strategy to improve the quality of Child Care as well as address the lack of space available for children; and

Whereas, recent studies² document a return of \$2.54 for every dollar invested in the type of system proposed in the Plan; and

Whereas; investing in child care has a bigger job multiplier effect than any other sector, with more employment per dollar of activity; and

¹ Surrey Board of Trade and Children's Partnership of Surrey-White Rock, Business and Families Position Paper, March 2012.

www.businessinsurrey.com/storage/advocacy_docs/business%20%20families%20position%20paper.pdf%20

² Centre for Spatial Economics, "Literature Review of Socioeconomic Effects and Net Benefits: Understanding and Addressing Workforce Shortages in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Project" (Prepared for the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council, 2009), pp. 28-29



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Whereas public investments in early care and learning systems pay for themselves;

Therefore;

BIRT the Kwantlen Student Association endorse the \$10 a Day Childcare Plan ("The Plan")

BIFRT the Kwantlen Student Association lobby the University to provide on campus child care

BIFRT the Kwantlen Student Association lobby the Provincial Government to support The Plan.