

August 11, 2020

Dear Trustee,

Re: Seamless Day model of early learning and care

The Canadian Union of Public Employees represents more than 30,000 workers in B.C.'s public school system, and is a strong advocate of public education. This advocacy has long included seeking expansion of the province's early learning and care models as part of the K-12 system. Recent work on this topic has led CUPE to propose to the Minister of Education that British Columbia implement the Seamless Day model of early learning and care as B.C.'s next major investment in child care expansion.

The direct delivery of child care by school districts using the seamless day model ensures high quality early childhood care and learning to children while also solving a practical problem for parents. This model extends the regular school day to integrate before-and after-school care with the classroom learning by having teachers, early childhood educators and education assistants work as a team.

Public delivery of child care by school boards ensures high quality programs and provides oversight within an existing governance structure, delivering the following key benefits:

- Improved accessibility and fewer transitions for kids;
- Enhanced and informed care that is education-focused;
- Coordination of care and learning between before-and after-school and school day programming;
- More secure and reliable child care options in every community;
- New opportunities to recruit and retain high-quality education assistant and early childhood educators;
- More effective delivery of cost-effective, high-quality child care spaces; and
- Increased investment in the public school system.

Recent decisions by the B.C. government have provided school districts the means and mandate to implement before and after-school programs. With these changes, school districts can begin implementing the seamless day for children in kindergarten and grades one and two, after which the program can be easily expanded to learners in senior grades.

I am pleased to attach a research document created by CUPE in support of this proposal. The document lays out the benefits of the seamless day and how existing implementation challenges can be overcome.

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As you read the document, I hope that you will see this proposal as a natural extension of the child care school districts provided in the spring in response to the needs revealed by the COVID-19 crisis. Now, as then, school districts are in an excellent position to provide high-quality, affordable and education-focused early learning and care that both speaks to the desperate need for more child care, and also creates a more enhanced learning and care environment.

In the coming weeks CUPE will be reaching out to the public to engage parents and community members in support of our seamless day proposal. We have launched a site with more information, BuildSeamlessChildCare.ca, and that enables supporters to directly engage with their local trustees.

As always, we welcome any questions or comments about our child care proposal or any other topic of concern or consideration. I invite you contact our Local Government Liaison, Steven Beasley, at sbeasley@cupe.ca or via phone at 778-903-7394.

Sincerely,



Trevor Davies
Secretary-Treasurer
CUPE BC

TD/LW



Enclosure (1) Seamless Day Proposal