



**Manitoba Child Care
Association**

April 16, 2010

Our mission is to advocate for a quality system of child care, to advance early childhood education as a profession, and to provide services to our members.

Hon. Gord Mackintosh
Minister of Family Services & Housing
Room 357, Legislative Building
450 Broadway Ave
R3C 0V8

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Dear Minister Mackintosh:

As you are aware licensed child care facilities are on fixed incomes and Budget 2010 does not include an increase to operating revenue 2010-2011. In order to be compliant with the new mandatory and unexpected requirement to control visitor access by April 1, 2011, most child care facilities will incur an unbudgeted and likely unaffordable expense ranging from several thousand, to many thousands of dollars. This expense will be ongoing for some facilities. For example, the classroom space assigned by the school may change day to day, week to week, or year to year.

The Manitoba Child Care Association recommends:

1. By May 15, 2010, the Government of Manitoba announce it will reimburse the full costs incurred by child care facilities in order to be compliant with the new locked door and controlling visitor access requirement, including the cost of making an employee available to monitor the door(s) during operating hours if that is the only option available.
2. The Government of Manitoba immediately assign personnel to mediate on behalf of licensed child care centres throughout Manitoba whose landlords will not give permission for the modifications required for doors to be kept locked and monitored. Many landlords are school divisions, but others include community centres, hospitals, personal care homes, churches, and commercial properties.
3. Facilities whose landlords will not give permission for the modifications required to lock doors and monitor access will need prompt financial and human resource assistance from the Government of Manitoba if re-location of the facility is required.
4. The Government of Manitoba review the province wide requirement to ensure the locked door and controlling visitor access policy is necessary in all child care facilities in Manitoba, including those in rural, northern, and remote locations.
5. The Government of Manitoba substantially beef up its crime prevention and law enforcement strategies, including poverty reduction and investing in early child development, to ensure criminals are the ones kept behind locked doors and children allowed free range to grow and play in safe communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Henderson".

Michele Henderson,
President

cc Grant Doak (Deputy Minister); Carolyn Leoppky (Assistant Deputy Minister); Lois Speirs (Director)

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