

MANITOBA  
**School Boards**  
ASSOCIATION

LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

June 17, 2010

COPY

The Honourable Gord Mackintosh  
Minister of Family Services & Consumer Affairs  
Legislative Building  
357-450 Broadway  
WINNIPEG, Manitoba  
R3C 0V8

Dear Mr. Mackintosh:

Over the past decade, the Manitoba School Boards Association has taken a keen and sustained interest in early childhood learning and care issues and has worked closely with both The Manitoba Child Care Association and Healthy Child Manitoba.

As you are aware, a high percentage of licensed child care centres are located in public schools across the province. It is only very recently that schools, divisional authorities and this association have been made aware of new requirements regarding procedures for controlling visitor access to child care centres. Initial conversations with representatives of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents and the Manitoba School Business Officials have identified a number of challenges and difficulties in meeting these new requirements for child care centres in schools. This is particularly so where such centres do not have entrances distinct and separate from those of the school itself.

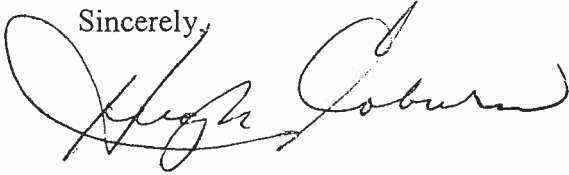
It is our understanding that in light of the concerns which child care centres have raised with your department about this matter some greater flexibility will be allowed in terms of compliance with the new requirements. Once again, however, school division authorities have not been fully apprised of these changes.

Certainly, the Manitoba School Boards Association and its member school boards understand well and fully appreciate the need to ensure secure environments for all children and youth in public school facilities. To this end, we share your department's concerns about safety issues for school-based child care centres and would welcome the opportunity to dialogue with you about

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these matters when new policies or legislation are being considered. We believe that such an approach would facilitate greater collaboration between the pre-school and public school sectors and help to avoid difficulties and confusion of the sort occasioned by this recent policy direction regarding operational procedures for Manitoba child care centres.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "C".

Hugh Coburn  
President

cc Lois Speirs, Acting Director, Manitoba Child Care Program  
Pat Wege, Executive Director, Manitoba Child Care Association  
The Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister of Education  
Coralie Bryant, Executive Director, Manitoba Association of School Superintendents  
Roy Seidler, Executive Director, Manitoba Association of School Business Officials  
All Manitoba School Boards