

October 19, 2009

Hon. Greg Selinger, Premier
Room 204, Legislative Building
450 Broadway Ave
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Premier Selinger:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Child Care Association (MCCA), I extend congratulations and best wishes for much success as Premier of Manitoba!

High quality, affordable, accessible early learning and child care is the backbone of all social programs that support families because:

- it is an essential service for parents in the workforce and those who want to enter it
- female lone parents – most of whom are poor – can train for work, get decent jobs, and accept job promotions
- it helps parents balance work and family. Its absence and cost both make a difference when it comes to deciding how many children to have
- children benefit from an early learning experience in the years prior to school entry
- it is very sustainable form of local economic development

Manitoba can't work without quality early learning and child care! I have enclosed a copy of MCCA's recommendations to the Government of Manitoba for your review.

Since 1999, the Government of Manitoba has worked to stabilize and strengthen our early learning and child care system. Good progress was made on the Five Year Plan for Child Care 2002-2007 and development will continue through Family Choices, Manitoba's Five Year Agenda for Early Learning and Child Care 2008-2012. However wait times are long, there is a critical shortage of Early Childhood Educators, and it is now widely recognized that investment in early childhood brings greater returns than investment in any other stage of education. As you begin the task of identifying your cabinet, I urge you to first consider two of our recommendations which state:

- that the Manitoba Child Care Program be included in the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth, as the Early Childhood Division
- that the Government of Manitoba establish a Minister of Early Childhood Care and Education to facilitate planning, communication, collaboration, and consistency between all partners and stakeholder

Our representatives would be pleased to meet with you to discuss these recommendations further. Your staff may contact our Executive Director, Pat Wege, at 586-8587 ext 25 with an appointment date.

Sincerely,

Michele Henderson,
President