*(add date)*

The Honourable Katrina Chen

Minister of Child Care

Room 027, Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

**katrina.chen.MLA@leg.bc.ca**

The Honourable Katrine Conroy

Minister of Child and Family Development

Room 134, Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

**katrine.conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca**

The Honorable Adrian Dix

Minister of Health

Room 337, Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

**adrian.dix.MLA@leg.bc.ca**

**RE: Early Intervention & Early Childhood Education for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children in BC**

Dear Minister Chen, Minister Conroy and Minister Dix,

My name is *(your first and last name)* and I ama member of the Deaf Community. I live in *(name of city)*, British Columbia.

*(Provide a few sentences or a paragraph here about you)*

* *Where you grew up*
* *Did you attend DCS Preschool ? How did it benefit you?*
	+ *If not, do you wish you could have ?*
* *What school did you attend – Mainstream or Deaf School*
* *What kind of support your family accessed -did they learn to sign ? By Who ?*
* *What was/is your relationship with your family ? Extended Family ? Do they sign ?*
* *Do you work ? Where ?*
* *Why is the Deaf Community valuable to you ?*

We are aware of the critical lack of funding to support Deaf and Hard of Hearing children within BC which has resulted in significant financial deficits to BC Family Hearing Resource Society, Children’s Hearing and Speech Centre of BC, and Deaf Children’s Society of BC.

Not having access to these life-changing programs and services, we believe…

* *Why Early Intervention services in ASL and English are crucial for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, their families and the Deaf community*
* *Why the DCS Preschool is important for Deaf Children and the Deaf Community*
* *Why is it important to protect ASL for Deaf Children?*
* *What happens to Deaf children if their families cannot communicate with them ?*

We implore you to provide appropriate funding to support crucial Early Intervention services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in BC from birth to age five.

*(Be sure to include your name and address on both your letter and envelope)*

Sincerely,

SIGN YOUR NAME

*(Print your name, Office Street address, City, Province, Postal Code)*

Cc: Deaf Children’s Society of BC, office@deafchildren.bc.ca

MLA Laurie Throness,  laurie.throness.MLA@leg.bc.ca

MLA Norm Letnick, norm.letnick.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Provincial Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Melissa.Mykle@gov.bc.ca

Family Network for Deaf Children  fndc@fndc.ca