

March 10, 2020

The Honourable Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care
Room 027, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
katrina.chen.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Chen,

It was a pleasure to meet you again last Thursday during the Budget Estimates meetings. Thank you for your time and your interest in meeting to discuss Deaf Children's Society and our unique Preschool and child-care program in Burnaby BC.

I would very much appreciate setting up a time with you to visit our Preschool and discuss some of the time sensitive and important issues we are currently facing in supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families. Of utmost importance;

- The barriers families face in accessing the Affordable Child Care Benefit, based on licencing regulations
- The crucial role DCS plays in the life-long learning and development of Deaf children, youth and adults
- The needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children entering preschools and child-care centers across the province
 - Inefficiencies and resource shortages in Supported Child Development systems
- The recent MCFD decision to approve the elimination of funding to the DCS Preschool
 - The impending closure of the DCS Preschool
- The provincial investment in Early Years Initiatives

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues and our recommendations as potential remedies. On behalf of the Deaf Children's Society Board of Directors and the children and families we serve, we look forward to your response. You may contact me at lmeneian@deafchildren.bc.ca

I remain, Sincerely



Lisa Meneian
Executive Director, Deaf Children's Society of BC

Cc: Rebecca Storey, MCFD
PDHHS, Melissa Mykle, Diana Tarchuk
CHSC, Dawn McKenna