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Chair & Director Mark Pendergraft
The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Electoral Area A - Osoyoos Rural
101 Martin Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5J9

Subject: Urgent - UBCM Child Care Resolution

To Regional District Chair & Director Mark Pendergraft of Electoral Area A - Osoyoos Rural ,

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is a longstanding, non-profit organization dedicated to the creation of a high-quality, affordable, accessible child care system in BC. We appreciate that your Council shares this vision to support families with young children, and the local economy in your district.

In recent years there has been measurable progress toward a quality child care system in BC with historic provincial and federal investments. New publicly-funded affordability measures for families including \$10aDay sites, wage enhancements for educators, and more licensed programs are making a positive difference.

However, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations across BC are still facing significant child care challenges, with demand for licensed child care outstripping supply, and a severe shortage of early childhood educators.

One of the major obstacles facing local governments when they want to expand child care in their communities is the grant-based application process required to access provincial capital funding. The current process places a major burden on applicants, usually local government staff working with non-profit agencies, requiring them to coordinate all aspects of design, development, and implementation. Significant technical expertise and organizational capacity are also necessary to complete the online applications, which often does not exist at the local level or pulls resources away from other municipal duties.

To address this urgent issue, we request that your Regional District vote to adopt the resolution shared below, as originally supported by the Regional District of Nanaimo, or a similar resolution. Once adopted we ask that you forward your resolution to your local area association and on to the 2023 UBCM Convention.

This resolution urges the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and non-profit organizations to enhance their organizational capacity to coordinate the current grant applications process.

The resolution further requests the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal child care that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

Evidence-based research makes clear that such a systemic approach will lead to a more equitable and accessible child care system across British Columbia.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for recognizing that child care is a priority for healthy communities. Please reach out should any clarification be required.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Gregson
Spokesperson \$10aDay
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Sample Resolution

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for B.C.'s \$10/day child care program, and ChildCareBC's growing system of universal child care has been life-changing for families, with demand far outstripping supply;

AND WHEREAS the current grant-based process to expand universal child care relies on grant applicants to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM-funded child care needs assessments and action plans:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal child care that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.