



CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE

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Honourable Rachna Singh, MLA
Minister of Education and Childcare
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

January 31, 2024

Minister,

We are supportive of the province's efforts to increase the number of childcare spaces across the province and wish to commend this government on undertaking this vital work. Changes to the School Act and actions listed within the Childcare BC Plan are concrete examples of this welcome commitment. Childcare is a matter of immense importance, and the City of Prince George is familiar with the need having worked with partners to support the creation of a number of new spaces within the city.

While the work to establish appropriate childcare space continues, concurrently, we ask that there be thought given to a mechanism by which local governments can recoup the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property. While these facilities are much needed, we note that the unique placement of these operations, specifically encouraged by provincial policy, moves a greater number of these businesses, outside of the municipal jurisdiction to levy taxes. This is challenging financially and as all local government strive to ensure equitable taxation to service providers across the community.

As municipalities across the province grapple with inflationary pressures on daily operations, and work to address the challenges posed by asset management, every opportunity needs to be available for local government to collect the appropriate revenue for providing our wide range of services. Minister, we urgently request you use your network of expertise to address this issue and that municipalities are consulted in the process.

We look forward to your reply and working together to help address what we perceive as a gap in the current system.

Respectfully,

Councillor Garth Frizzell
Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

Distribution:

The Honorable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs
The Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of State for Child Care
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