



## School District 70 Pacific Rim

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June 26, 2023

Hon. Rachna Singh  
Minister of Education and Child Care  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Singh,

I am writing to you on behalf of the SD70 Pacific Rim Board of Education, representing the dedicated educators, administrators, and young families in our region. I would like to bring your attention to the matter of our local StrongStart programs, which have proven to be immensely valuable in fostering early childhood development and preparing children for their educational journey. These programs have been instrumental in providing young learners with a nurturing and supportive environment, facilitating their cognitive, social, and emotional growth during their critical early years. We commend the Ministry of Education and Childcare for its commitment to early childhood education and the existing funding allocated to StrongStart programs.

Despite the proven success of StrongStart programs, the current funding levels fall short of meeting the growing demand and diverse needs of our region. Since we first began operating our StrongStart programs over 20 years ago, we have witnessed a noticeable increase in the costs associated with delivering quality programming. These rising costs can be attributed to various factors, including inflation, increased demand for specialized resources, and higher wages for Union members as prescribed for in the Collective Agreement, resulting in our having to subsidize the program by over \$20,000 each year.

As such, we respectfully request that you consider increasing program funding for our StrongStart programs. We understand the financial challenges faced by governments and the need to allocate resources effectively across various sectors. However, investing in StrongStart programming is an investment in our future generations and ensures that every child has an equal opportunity to develop the foundational skills necessary for success in school and beyond, as well as provide necessary support for the existing workforce.

We would be delighted to further discuss this matter with you remotely or in person and are happy to provide any additional information or evidence to support our request. By working together, we can ensure that our children can continue to benefit from the high-quality, thriving, busy StrongStart centers they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your positive response and are confident that your support will make a lasting impact on the lives of countless families.

With regards,

Pam Craig  
Board Chair, Board of Education, School District 70 Pacific Rim

cc: Hon. Grace Lore, Minister of State for Child Care [grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca)  
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