

Ministry of Education

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September 28, 2012

Mr. Les Gamble
Chair
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Boulevard
Espanola ON P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Gamble,

Premier McGuinty forwarded to me your correspondence about capital funds to include a Best Start Hub at Sacred Heart School. I am pleased to reply.

The Ministry of Education has provided direction about capital funding for child care through its interim policy to replace childcare spaces in replacement schools. The joint planning that occurred between the Huron-Superior Catholic School Board and the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board was integral to the grant approval to fund the replacement of childcare spaces at Sacred Heart School. I thank you and your staff for this collaborative planning and shared leadership.

On April 20, 2012, our government, as part of the 2012 Budget, announced additional investment in child care, such as the Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy. As noted in the 2012: EL 3 Memo sent to municipal childcare service system managers and school boards on July 10, 2012, further details about specific funding allocations, implementation strategies and reporting requirements under the Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy will be provided in a follow-up memo in the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, the leadership for the Best Start Strategy remains with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. I have copied Minister Eric Hoskins for his information.


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Our government is taking steps to realize its vision of a more seamless and integrated system to support young children and their families. Modernizing child care is the next step in our plan. The long-term vision is outlined in the discussion paper, *Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together*.

All interested parties are invited to provide feedback and advice on the discussion paper until September 24, 2012.

I appreciate the time you have taken to share your thoughts. Thank you for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurel Broten".

Laurel Broten
Minister

c: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier

The Honourable Eric Hoskins
Minister of Children and Youth Services