

**Delegation:** Carol O'Connor, re Request for Support of the Mid Island Child Care Planning Collaborate Grant Application

**Summary:** The Provincial Government of British Columbia is offering the communities compassed in the Regional District of Nanaimo an amazing opportunity to design and build a Universal Child Care system that best meets the unique needs of each community.

Early Learning & Child Care Council in Oceanside (ECCO) is a multi-sector group that has been working for several years to highlight the need for Quality, Accessible and Affordable Childcare. The group supports the Mid Island Child Care Planning Collaborative grant application and has agreed to support the consultant work within the Oceanside area.

The group asks the RDN to consider agreeing to support the Mid Island Child Care Planning Collaborative grant application, so that the additional grant dollars can support the data collection that reflects the rural community child care needs.

This data collection gives Union of BC Municipalities an opportunity to infuse dollars into rural communities, supporting community childcare space expansion, ensuring that all RDN citizens have access to high quality care and education of their children, within the community they live or work.

Currently the Provincial Government Childcare initiatives have reduced the cost of childcare for many families however it is important to increase this opportunity. Many families are not able to see this benefit as they have no access to child care spaces. Currently a small amount of families can find childcare that receives the provincial benefit.

Please support the work of the BC Provincial Government, the Coalition of Childcare Advocates Early Childhood Educators of BC and all community Early Years advocates, who have worked in support of a better future for the care and education of young children.

**Action Requested:** Request to RDN Board to approve grant application and participate in the Mid Island Child Care Planning Collaborative grant application.