



December 20, 2011

VIA EMAIL
Ref: 150531

Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, Chair
Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation
EMAIL: kmccuaig@rogers.com

Dear Ms. McCain:

Thank you for your letter dated November 18, 2011, to the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Education, and for a copy of *Early Years Study 3: Making decisions, taking action*, which was released on November 22, 2011. Minister Abbott has forwarded your letter to me and requested that I respond on his behalf and convey his appreciation for sending us the report.

The Ministry of Education has appreciated your organization's efforts and its commitment to creating the Early Years publications. Since the first Early Years Study was published, we have used the information and research to inform our early learning policy and program development. Moreover, the reports have supported a shared understanding of the critical periods of development for children.

We are pleased to see, in this third study, such a depth of information and range of research findings on the importance of high quality environments to support children's learning and development. The 326 StrongStart BC programs across British Columbia strive to offer rich learning experiences for children and all of them use BC's Early Learning Framework, which your report identifies as a strength of our system, to guide their programs. Also, as noted in your report as another strength of our system, Full-day Kindergarten is now available for every eligible child in the province.

Thank you again for sharing your this study with us.

Sincerely,

Rod Allen, Superintendent
Learning Division