



Board of Education

Media Information

April 28, 2008

School District to Provide 60 New Daycare Spaces

Kelowna, BC: An additional 60 children in Kelowna will have access to much-needed daycare as early as September 2008. The Minister of State for Child Care recently announced the awarding of grants to daycare operators who will use space within Quigley Elementary and Raymer Elementary schools. The School District has provided a free assessment of available space and the required renovations, and has committed to providing the facilities for a minimum of five years.

Interested daycare operators applied directly to the Ministry of Children and Family Development for grants to begin operations. The grants will be used to complete renovations to create spaces suitable for daycares and that meet the Community Care Licensing requirements. The grants also cover start-up costs incurred by operators such as equipment and furnishings. Once the centres are up and running, they will be self-sufficiently funded by family fees.

The YMCA-YWCA of the Central Okanagan applied for and won the grant to operate a daycare facility at Quigley Elementary. Twenty "Kindercare" spaces will be created at the school. The grant amount awarded to the YMCA-YWCA is \$41,565.00.

"The YMCA-YWCA of the Central Okanagan is excited to partner with School District No. 23 on the creation of 20 new Kindercare spaces at Quigley Elementary School. The YMCA is the largest provider of not-for-profit child care in Canada and locally. We're here to support Central Okanagan families by providing safe and accessible child care in our commitment to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities," says Sharon Peterson, CEO.

The Clubhouse Child Care Centre applied for and won the grant to operate a facility at Raymer Elementary. The grant will help to create 20 "Kindercare" spaces and 20 group daycare spaces (for children aged 30 months to five years). The grant awarded to the Clubhouse is \$99,803.33.

"We have been striving to meet the ever-changing and increasing child care needs faced by families in our community," said Caroline Noga, Executive Director for Clubhouse Child Care Centre. "This grant provides us an opportunity to continue our successful partnership with School District No. 23 and offers high quality, early learning child care programs that are available and accessible to all families needing care".

The District will soon begin renovations on the facilities in order to have them operational by September 2008.

Currently, the District leases 13 facilities to preschool operators. In addition, the free early learning drop-in StrongStart centre at A.S. Matheson Elementary has become so popular that organizers have established a limit of 19 preschool children accompanied by their parents, older adult family member or caregiver at any given time.

For comments, please contact:

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