

# Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

September 14, 2010 in the Administration Building

**In Attendance (in bold; absent members are not in bold)**

<b>Infant Centres:</b>			
Little Goslings	<b>Shi-Ling Hsu (Fundraising Chair)</b>	Coho	
<b>Toddler Centres:</b>		<b>3-5 Centres:</b>	
Sitka	Christina Hendricks (VP Advocacy, Faculty) <b>Katy Thomson</b>	Acadia	
Huckleberry	<b>Marla Mickleborough</b>	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni <b>Csilla Tamás</b>
Canada Goose		Pacific Spirit	<b>Jim Johnson</b> (Web Master)
Discovery		Tillicum	Elinor Delgatty (VP Advocacy, Staff)
Lilliput	Julie Stitt	Lluvia	
Chuva		Barish	
		Summer of '73	<b>Lisa Sundstrom</b> (Secretary) <b>Todd Handy</b> (Treasurer) <b>Hong Lin</b>
<b>18 months – 5 years Centres:</b>			
Salal		Kittiwake	<b>Yasmin Nassar</b> Musarrat Nahid
Auklet			
<b>Out-of-School Care (ages 5-12):</b>			
Kids Club	<b>Kelli Kadokawa (President)</b>		
<b>Staff:</b>		<b>Others:</b>	<b>Sedi Minachi (GSS)</b>
<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Darcelle Cottons</b> <b>Bev Christian</b>		

Please ask your council rep or senior staff members for contact information if you have any questions.

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### 1. **Introductions**

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

### 2. **Minutes**

Jim Johnson moved, Todd Handy seconded accepting the minutes from our last meeting with no corrections. The minutes from the **June 2010** meeting have been approved.

### 3. **Administrators' Report (Darcelle and Bev)**

Darcelle: A few items related to childcare expansion are proceeding to UBC's Board of Governors (BOG). We were looking at putting in drop-in daycare in the Graduate Studies building (Thea Koerner Lounge). Plan now canceled since GSS chose to use the building for other purposes.

Bastion centre canceled as announced earlier due to rot in the building.

New "Owl at the Barn" Childcare Centre (old Barn Coffee Shop) now open as of Sept. 1. 8 toddler spaces plus 25 spaces for children aged 3-5. There will be an open house for people to see the new centre on Thursday, Sept. 30– keep your eyes open for notice!

The Childcare Services Administration building is being renovated for new childcare programs.. During the renovation, childcare administrators' offices will remain working in the building. As a result of this renovation, the centres that were originally the half-day programs will re-open as full-day programs: Barish, a 3-5 age daycare with 25 children; and Chuva, a toddler program with 12 children. An additional multi- program similar to the Owl at the Barn with a 3-5 year old side and a toddler side will also open in the building. Planned ready date: Jan. 1, 2011.

Further childcare expansion is planned, with a centre to open in the University Services Building on West Mall. There will be another toddler daycare and a 3-5 age daycare placed there (total 37 spaces). They will share a kitchen and an art room. This facility will be over 3000 sq. ft. in size. The central campus location is good. Service hours will be different, likely a 7:00-7:15 am opening and 4 pm closing, with option to purchase additional later hours. This proposal is currently going to BOG. The university's Property and Planning Committee approved an extra \$190,000 budget for development of these centres. Bids to go out in January 2011, then construction over the winter to open in summer or fall. There will be an open house to comment on the plans for this centre on Tuesday, September 28, 4:00-6:00 pm at the University Services Building, 2329 West Mall, Rm 0042.

New university “hub” development projects on campus are also in the planning stage. The first will occur around the current Ponderosa complex, and will be a mix of student housing, academic offices and retail. Five different hub points are planned for development over the next 5-15 years, with plans to put childcare in every one. Would be “podium” childcare centres on upper floors with rooftop playgrounds rather than on the ground floor.

BOG is requesting a Childcare Plan update on concrete plans to reach the target of 1000 daycare spaces by 2015.

UBC has recently signed a contract with a private operator, Kids & Co, for additional services. For more information see the HR Focus on People update <http://www.focusonpeople.ubc.ca/2010/ubc-child-care-update/>

Bev explained that this is concerning since it is a move from non-profit to for-profit childcare when all research shows non-profit provision leads to much higher quality childcare. For-profit operations inevitably require cutting corners on staff pay (therefore quality and experience of staff), daycare materials, etc. There has been a terrible history in Australia of converting the childcare sector to for-profit childcare, which degraded the quality of childcare and ended up costing the Australian government more since it had to subsidize parents for rising daycare fees (see Coalition for Childcare Advocates website for accounts of this:

[http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/act/actions/2007/NFS/ccabc\\_au\\_hindsight.pdf](http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/act/actions/2007/NFS/ccabc_au_hindsight.pdf)).

It was pointed out some faculty have argued quite strongly *for* a contract with Kids & Co in order to gain access to other childcare services without such a long wait.

Darcelle: For illustrative purposes the UBC-CCS budget for infant care loses \$263,000/ year. Toddler centres lose \$172,000/year. Preschool centres gain \$205,674 and mixed-age gain \$94,568. We are fortunate that the preschool centres can help to cross-finance the younger age-group centres (which are more expensive due to higher staff:child ratios). But for-profit childcare providers are unlikely to offer many infant/toddler spaces, and if they do, they will be much more expensive than UBC-CCS spaces at the full market rate.

Sedi expressed worry that families may shift over to for-profit childcare for age 3-5 kids because it will be cheaper. Darcelle adds that if that happened that people would have to pay over \$2000/ month at market rate for infant care at UBC.

In camera discussion followed, with referral to the council’s advocacy group for further exploration on how to react.

Darcelle: UBC-CCS is currently in discussions with the Developmental Disabilities Association, which has multiple childcare centres around the city. This association is willing to put UBC affiliates as priority in its centres (daycares to afterschool cares) – perhaps 2 UBC-dedicated spaces per centre. Darcelle is in discussions with them about this option as another way for UBC to extend access to not-for-profit childcare.

The university is also planning facilitation of “License not required” childcare for small numbers of children in-home in order to reach the Childcare Plan target numbers.

Bev gave an update on enrolment. July and August were fairly slow (about 35 enrolments each month), and September was heavy (85 enrolments). From April to September 2010, 192 spaces in under-5 spots were filled (don’t yet have data on how many were new enrollments). Plus 40 spaces for Lluvia preschool and 100 children enrolling for out-of-school care at Kids’ Club. We managed to reach the end of the faculty/ staff and student wait lists for age 4 children. Reached close to the end for age 3 children for students, but not faculty/ staff. The picture for the toddler waitlist is very different. Wait is still over 2 years long for faculty/ staff and a little less for students.

The spacing out of new centre openings has to be carefully managed in order to deal well with availability of children of appropriate ages on the list. We also need to watch how this affects kindergarten wait lists. We expect about 125 children at kindergarten entry age to be potentially interested in 28 kindergarten spots for 2011 enrolment, due to the recent expansion of age 3-5 spots in the system. So parents need to make sure to look at other school options in addition to UBC.

By mid-July Bev had received nearly all withdrawal forms from families leaving the system for kindergarten. Big thanks to parents for this since it helps to facilitate enrolment offers to new families well ahead of time for their own peace of mind!

Action items: Advocacy reps to coordinate with GSS and AMS on strategy for speaking out against the university's Kids & Co contract. Reps to inform parents about two open houses coming up and alert them about the university's for-profit childcare plans.
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#### **4. Parent Info Night (Kelli)**

Every year the daycare council hosts a parent school info night. We invite a school board rep, UBC Kindergarten and Kids Club, and last year initiated a parent panel including a University Hill Elementary parent and parents with children in French immersion and other city schools. This year the event will take place on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 7 pm, in Acadia Commons Block Gym (due to such high attendance last year in the UBC-CCS Administration building, we had to change the location). William Wong of Vancouver School Board will be attending. We need to recruit parents to volunteer for a panel to discuss: registration lottery system, all-day kindergarten, U Hill school, kinder/ afterschool care, French immersion, transition from UBC kindergarten to "real world" of public school system, private bus service that takes people to U Hill. Any parents who wish to volunteer?

Bev: would be very helpful to reintroduce the afterschool care list that we distributed to attendees in recent years, but it will seriously need to be updated due to changes in these programs as a result of the shift to all-day kindergarten.

Action items: Kelli to send out message to parents to recruit volunteers for parent panel.
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#### **5. Fundraising – Fall grocery fundraiser, Lovable Labels re-launch**

Shi-Ling: The council has two major fundraising projects: (1) sales of Lovable Labels; and (2) gift card fundraiser.

Tonight it would be helpful to settle the best timing of the gift card fundraiser. After much discussion, those in attendance decided that the fundraiser will launch on Oct. 1 and end Oct. 29 (deadline for parents to submit their gift card orders). A work-study student will distribute order forms and envelopes for order collections to the centres, then gather cheques midway through this period and deposit to safe in admin office, then again after the deadline. Todd will deposit cheques in the council's bank account. We will then collate the orders to send them in to the fundraising company.

Lovable Labels is an ongoing and low-labour fundraising mechanism for the council. The labels are very high-quality and survive washing machines and dishwashers for a long time. People can purchase labels (for clothing, food containers, etc) through our link on the daycare council website (<http://www.ubc.lovablelabels.ca/>). Then each purchase returns a profit margin to the council.

Action items: Shi-Ling to provide the cover letter and order forms to Bev, and oversee collation of orders and payment to fundraising company. Bev to see that these are photocopied and distributed to
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centres by a work-study student and payments collected. Todd to deposit cheques in the bank in a timely manner.

## **6. Open Executive positions: Co-Secretary, Co-Fundraising Chair, VP**

### **Advocacy-Students**

We still need to find a Co-Secretary to assist Lisa, a Co-Fundraising Chair to assist Shi-Ling, and a VP for Advocacy for Students since our previous VP has left the system.

Marla Mickleborough and Katie Thompson, both students, offered to stand as co-VPs for Advocacy for Students. Both were approved unanimously.

Still looking for a Co-Secretary and Co-Fundraising Chair.

Action items: Centre representatives: encourage parents in centres to become council representatives and possibly volunteer to be Co-Secretary or Co-Fundraising Chair.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

Lisa: We need to settle the question of when minutes can be posted on the council website (in what state of approval). Jim suggested that minutes from now on could be posted online as “draft” minutes after being vetted by executive, to be revised as necessary and reloaded after approval by council the following month. There were no objections to this proposal.

Lisa: We also need to put the question of whether the council grants program structure should be revised on the agenda for a meeting in the near future. Kelli: Next month will put on agenda a reconsideration of the grant program and whether needs reconfiguration for long-term feasibility.

Jim: We should remind centres to give us an update on results of the grant projects we funded last year.

Yasmin: Kittywake loved the used overhead projector that Jim found available to donate to them without needing to use grant funds.

Action items: Kelli to put the grant program on the agenda for October’s meeting. Jim to post meeting minutes on the council website after Lisa has revised minutes each month following executive members’ feedback. Kelli or Lisa to send text of a message to Bev to inform parents via the mass distribution email system when the minutes are available on the web.

## **8. Confirm Next Meeting**

Next meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7 pm in the Admin. Building. All parents are welcome to attend.