

The Premier
of New Brunswick



Le premier ministre
du Nouveau-Brunswick

P.O. Box/C.P. 6000 Fredericton New Brunswick/Nouveau-Brunswick E3B 5H1 Canada

December 11, 2014

Ms. Margaret McCain, Chair
Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation
Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development
OISE/University of Toronto
252 Bloor Street West, Room 9-238
Toronto ON M5S 1V6

Dear Ms. McCain:

This is in response to your letter of November 13, 2014 regarding the Early Childhood Education Report 2014.

The release of the Early Childhood Education Report 2014 is timely as we embark on exciting new developments in New Brunswick. I have noted the great strides the province has accomplished in a short three-year period: a score increasing from 4.5 points on the index in 2011 to a total of 8 points in 2014, which represents a 23% improvement. I am confident that we will demonstrate even greater improvements in the coming years as we move New Brunswick forward.

Our goal is to create a continuum of learning from birth that supports the child's global development to ensure optimal school readiness. We are excited at the opportunities of investing in early childhood education. We know that investment in early learning and child care has economic impacts that benefit everyone. Not only does it impact on children's lifelong learning, but by the same token it supports job creation and has direct revenue impacts.

To that end, our priorities are clear. Parents need to have access to quality and affordable child care. We have committed to create 6,000 new child care spaces and to double the budget for child care subsidies. Furthermore, in the coming months, we will establish a 10-year Education Plan that will include early childhood education in order to build a strong and robust foundation of learning for children.

I understand that your organization is in communication with my staff to collaborate on initiatives that support New Brunswick in increasing its quality in early childhood education. I welcome these partnerships and I certainly hope that we will have the opportunity in the near future to discuss this further.

Thank you for your dedication to early childhood.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Gallant', written over a horizontal line.

Brian Gallant
Premier

c.c.: Honourable Serge Rousselle, Q.C., Department of Education and Early Childhood Development