

The 3rd year George Brown College (GBC) Bachelor of Early Childhood Leadership (ECL) students offer the following responses to the Atkinson/McCuaig Open Letter “[A starting point for discussions on a new federal/provincial/territorial early childhood agreement](#)”:

In a manner of openness and transparency, we would like to acknowledge our respect for the work being done in Ontario, and across Canada, in regards to a new federal/provincial/territorial early childhood agreement. We would like to add our voice, through the following points.

We agree with the need to utilize existing builds, such as schools, to support an infrastructure that already is in excess of need of repairs. As well, there is a clear understanding that an investment in research, evaluation, and innovations is a necessary step in moving forward with a focus on supporting, and sustaining,

Aboriginal children are of utmost importance. Much more research needs to be done in this area, while taking a more proactive approach to implement needed developmental programs and services. We believe that the most significant issue is to collaborate with First Nations, in order to create a national framework that recognizes Aboriginal culture across Canada.

As a class, we support the notion that increased parental leave, to 18 months, would only serve to benefit attachment, long-term developmental milestones, and other societal necessities. In addition, fathers, same-sex spouses, and those not in traditional work-hours positions need equal access to spending those critical first 18 months with their child. Consequently, having an 18 month parental leave period would most likely impact the financial burden of the high cost of infant child care.

We thank you for the opportunity to dialogue with you, in this manner. We look forward to a continued discussion.

Sincerely,
3rd year GBC Bachelor of ECL Students, Building Healthy Communities Course

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