



June 18, 2026
Our Ref. 27475

Erica Phipps, MPH, PhD
Executive Director
Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment
1500 – 55 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5J 2H7

Email Address: erica@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca

Dear Erica Phipps:

Thank you for your letter of April 23, 2026, addressed to The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister; several members of federal Cabinet; the Honourable David Eby, Premier; and several members of provincial and territorial Cabinets, regarding the need for healthy and sustainable outdoor learning spaces in Canada. I am responding on behalf of British Columbia's Ministry of Infrastructure to address the call-to-action items raised.

The Ministry of Infrastructure understands the importance of safe, sustainable outdoor spaces in which children can play and learn. Access to nature is, as you note, paramount to supporting children's health and well-being.

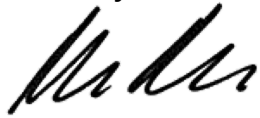
British Columbia's public school districts have authority to determine the type of playfields and playgrounds that best suit their communities. Playgrounds must be universally accessible and can include natural adventure-style equipment and spaces with appropriate ground cover. Funding is provided by the Province for playfields and playgrounds at new and replacement schools. In addition, provincial funding programs such as the Playground Equipment Program and the Annual Facility Grant provide funding for playground and playfield upgrades at existing schools.

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Since 2018, the Playground Equipment Program has invested \$50 million across more than 330 schools, benefitting more than 88,000 students. The Annual Facility Grant has invested an additional \$25 million in outdoor learning and play spaces across more than 475 schools, benefitting more than 123,000 students. The Ministry of Infrastructure remains committed to continuing this important work.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your advocacy on behalf of children and the environment in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bobbi Plecas', written in a cursive style.

Bobbi Plecas
Deputy Minister

cc: Honourable David Eby
Premier

Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care

Honourable Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks

Honourable Kelly Greene
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Honourable Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Health