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March 27, 2024

To: Minister McLean

From: Susan Lancaster

Little Blue Daycare

CC: Currie Dixon, Sandy Silver, Kate White, Premier Pillai

Dear Minister McLean;

am writing on behalf of Dawson Society for Children and Families (Little Blue Daycare) to inquire about the Big Blue Hub and where we are at in the process.

In the fall of 2021, the Board of DSCF met with you and other Ministers to discuss a new build for Little Blue that has been long in the waiting. We were told to update our Feasibility Study and YG would assist us with the next steps to ensure the plan would proceed. In October of 2021 I applied for and received funding from CDF and the Education Department to update the eight-year-old Feasibility Study.

Once this was complete and provided to YG, I applied for and received funding from CDF and the Education Department to have a design and cost analysis done. This was finished in April of 2023 and submitted to you for review immediately.

Since this time, we have heard, "we are working on it" "we are pushing forward" "we are going through the process." I would like to know, with more detail, where in the process are you? How much longer will we wait? Our waitlist numbers are constantly increasing. As of yesterday, we have 47 children under 5 years on our wait list. We had hoped to break ground last spring, which didn't happen. Now we are losing hope we will break ground this year at all. For the benefit of the community, we included four other non profit child related organizations in to the building plans with the hopes of eliminating the need for them to move locations or work without office space.

We recognise that there is a process that must be followed and that this is a big funding ask. However, eight years ago it was originally promised, and it has still not happened. I listen and watch question period at the legislative assembly and hear the same answers every time. No true answer.

I was asked last spring to inquire with the Department head instead of messaging you directly, for further updates and information. We sit here a year later with no changes or updates. So, I am reaching out to you again directly for information. I am also including others in this email with the knowledge that all Parties were in support of this build at the last election.

Thank you for any updates you can provide.

Sue Lancaster Executive Director Little Blue Daycare 867-993-5167