



NORTH SHORE CONGRESS

# Child and Family Friendly Community Charter

*Whereas* the North Shore Congress is a forum for discussion and co-operative action on the multi jurisdictional issues that influence the health, social well being and sustainability of our citizens and communities; and

*Whereas* the North Shore Congress includes five municipalities, two first nation communities, two boards of education and one health authority that provide services, education and health to children and families; and

*Whereas* the period of Early Child Development from pre-natal to age six is critical to life-long success and provides a foundation on which to build individual, social and economic well-being; and

*Whereas* the North Shore Congress recognizes that children and their families are a vital part of the community and that early child development is a collective responsibility among parents, levels of government, ministries, boards of education, health providers, business and community agencies charged with creating services and supporting families; and

*Whereas* the North Shore Congress is committed to work together to create broad, equitable access to the conditions that help children and families thrive.

*Therefore*, the North Shore Congress acknowledges the importance of each to the other, the necessity of a good working relationship between them, and their commitment to this Charter to guide this relationship.

- The North Shore Congress acknowledges the independence of each organization, as well as the obligation of each to act in a manner consistent with its own governance models.
- The North Shore Congress acknowledges the work of the Human Early Learning Partnership (UBC) on Early Child Development as credible research data that is recognized internationally and considers the factors affecting the health, well-being and development of all young children and their families.
- The North Shore Congress commits to effective communication regarding the importance of early child development, in order to raise awareness within the signatory communities.
- The North Shore Congress agrees to promote child friendly communities.
- The North Shore Congress recognizes that there are children and families who are disadvantaged and agrees to work towards, and promote equitable opportunity, for ALL children and families in the respective communities.
- The North Shore Congress commits to look at all policy decisions in the signatory communities through a child and family friendly lens.
- The North Shore Congress commits to work towards an expansion of community access to high quality Early Childhood programs and services that are culturally appropriate, accessible and informed by research.
- The North Shore Congress acknowledges the importance of providing regular opportunities for the monitoring of children's healthy development.
- The North Shore Congress agrees to promote ongoing coordination and integration of early years' programs and services in the respective communities.
- The North Shore Congress agrees to advocate for federal and provincial policy to enhance parental leave, promote universal child care, revise employment standards to reduce work-life conflicts, create fair living wage and expand financial support for low-income families.
- This Charter shall be formally reviewed at least every five years.
- This Charter may be amended, at any time, by the written agreement of all parties.
- A party may terminate/withdraw from this Charter by giving at least six months notice.

*Signed this 12th day of October, 2011*



Mayor Darrell Mussatto  
City of North Vancouver




Mayor Richard Walton  
District of North Vancouver



Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones  
District of West Vancouver



Mayor Branda Broughton  
Village of Lions Bay



Mayor Bob Turner  
Bowen Island Municipality



Franci Stratton, Chairperson  
North Vancouver School District



Mary-Ann Booth, Chairperson  
West Vancouver School District



Wendy Hansson, COO-Coastal  
Vancouver Coastal Health



BOWEN ISLAND  
MUNICIPALITY

North Vancouver  
School District  
*the natural place to learn*

WEST VANCOUVER  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*The premier place for learning.*

Vancouver  
CoastalHealth  
*Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.*