

MOTION

No. 28

Motion calling on government to increase play-based learning in PEI public schools

Karla Bernard (Charlottetown-Victoria Park) moved, seconded by Lynne Lund (Summerside-Wilmot) the following Motion:

WHEREAS the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has identified that the right to play is at the heart of children's lives;

AND WHEREAS play-based education in PEI's school system is currently only mandated in Kindergarten;

AND WHEREAS many Island teachers of all grades understand the importance of play in a child's learning and development and work to incorporate play-based learning well beyond the Kindergarten years;

AND WHEREAS play-based curriculum is not directly supported in grades higher than Kindergarten on PEI;

AND WHEREAS teachers are not supported to implement play-based learning techniques;

AND WHEREAS exclusive play-based learning is an evidence-based approach for ideal childhood development and learning up to the age of 8;

AND WHEREAS play-based learning supports the physical and mental wellbeing of children;

AND WHEREAS outdoor play uniquely offers physical, social, emotional and intellectual benefits for children's development;

AND WHEREAS The PEI Children's Report 2017 concluded that obesity rates among children are rising and that children with the most deprivation and low family affluence were significantly more likely to have obesity;

AND WHEREAS government has committed to providing evidence-based systems and supports across all departments including education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to immediately support teachers to implement exclusive play-based learning curriculum into grade 1 across the Public Schools Branch;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to work with our educators to implement exclusive or increased play-based learning curriculum across all Public Schools Branch grades on PEI.

Signed by: Karla Bernard

Signed by: Lynne Lund

Date: March 9, 2021