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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Stepping Stone Preschool has operated in the Kerrisdale community of Vancouver since 1975. The school was opened and established by dedicated parent volunteers who identified a need for quality education in our community. We are a play-based preschool and we have been proud to offer an enriching program that balances fun and learning to prepare children for the coming years of education.

Today we announce that we will continue to offer an exceptional learning environment for **one final school year, 2025-2026**. Faced with changing community dynamics, we explored many options for the future of our preschool, but ultimately came to the difficult decision that the best course of action is to **close the school**. While this news is no doubt difficult, we wish to spend the next year honouring and celebrating our phenomenal 50 year legacy.

We have many people to thank in our community that made 50 years of Stepping Stone possible:

- Our Teachers have always been top educators in their field. They have a wide base of knowledge concerning Child Development, including the philosophies of Reggio Emilia, Montessori, and the theories of a variety of Child Psychologists and Educators. They provided a safe, trusting environment in which children can develop on all levels. Thank you for sharing your passion and talent with our children.
- St. Faith's Church has been a supportive partner from the beginning –with the founding parents being parishioners. The St. Faith's volunteers go above and beyond to maintain the school facilities –always painting, renovating and cleaning. Over the years St. Faith's has helped weather the ups and downs including the COVID pandemic. During that time, they worked to create a safe sanctuary that children could come to school and continue to learn. We are beyond grateful for all their support over the years.
- Stepping Stone Preschool is wholly run by the volunteer Parent Board. Words can not convey the time and heart that parents poured into our school. Thank you for your tireless passion in creating and maintaining a school that benefited and shaped not just your own children, but the community as a whole. Please know that by supporting the education of children at Stepping Stone, you have changed lives for the better.
- We wish to thank the thousands of families that entrusted Stepping Stone Preschool with the formative early years of their child's education. We are grateful that you stepped through our doors, supported the school through various fundraisers and of course

spread your endorsement of what quality preschool education can be! We stand proudly alongside all our Alumni families.

We hope that all members of our Stepping Stone community will join us as we host various celebratory events commemorating our 50 year anniversary. We know that many of you found lifelong friendships within our school community and we would love to bring everyone together! If you would like to be involved in the planning of alumni events and community events, please contact our school at admin@steppingstonepreschool.org. We look forward to seeing you all in the coming school year!

Sincerely,
Stepping Stone Preschool Society