Please find the statement from School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) below:

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) has completed a District-wide environmental scan and has hired a District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care. This position is working to foster positive relationships with existing child care providers and CUPE Local 4165 across all the District's communities. Specific announcements regarding approved projects in Cranbrook will be forthcoming and will include details about school-aged child care on school grounds.

The District was included in discussions with the consultant engaged by the City of Cranbrook at the start of the process; however, the District was not asked to provide input into the site selection.

The responsibility of child care falls to multiple stakeholders and is not the sole responsibility of any single sector. The District commends the City of Cranbrook's efforts to advance the development of a child care center and we recognize the challenges in selecting any site for future development. Land availability is a concern across the District communities. The current District-owned properties are designated for future school sites and other educational initiatives as the province's population continues to grow. Child care spaces will be included in any future developments undertaken by School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay).

The District remains committed to the development of child care spaces in all communities.

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