

Ministry of Children
and Youth Services

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APR 15 2010

Ms. Lois Mahon
College of Early Childhood Educators
1900-438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2K8

Dear Ms. Mahon:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed regulatory amendments to the *Day Nurseries Act*. I appreciate this opportunity to respond and provide you with some information.

Establishing a strong foundation for the early years is a powerful key to Ontario's social and economic future. While full-day learning will give Ontario's children a strong start, I understand that it will affect child care programs and registered Early Childhood Educators in a number of ways. We are committed to maintaining stable child care.

Not only have we demonstrated our commitment to Ontario's children by creating more than 22,000 new, licensed child care spaces since 2004, our government's 2010 Budget provided an investment of \$63.5 million per year to permanently fill the funding gap in child care left by the federal government. This investment will preserve child care spaces and help child care workers keep their jobs. Ontario needs a reliable, long-term funding partner to support the programs and services that matter to Ontarians. We continue to call on the federal government to meet its responsibility to Ontario families and we encourage organizations to do the same.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is working closely with municipalities as well as with our colleagues in the Ministry of Education to stabilize and enhance existing child care and other programs for young children. We will work to manage the impact of any changes at the local level so there will be as little disruption as possible.

On January 26, 2010, ministry staff consulted with a number of child care operators and organizations, including the College of Early Childhood Educators, to discuss the proposed regulatory amendments to the *Day Nurseries Act*. As you are aware, the objective of the proposed regulatory amendments to the *Day Nurseries Act* is to support child care operators as four- and five-year-olds leave their programs and enter into full-day learning. I am very pleased to have your voice at the table during this period of consultation.

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Our government remains committed to early learning and child care. As full-day learning is implemented, we will continue to work closely to create an early learning and child care system that will support Ontario's children and their families.

Thank you again for sharing your recommendations. Your comments are valued and will be taken into account as we continue to support and strengthen child care and early learning services for young Ontarians and their families.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurel Broten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurel Broten
Minister