

March 16, 2020

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Lecce:

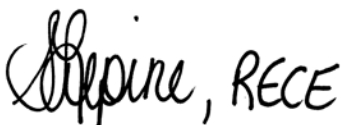
The College of Early Childhood Educators oversees more than 55,000 registered early childhood educators (RECEs) in Ontario, more than 60% of whom work in licensed childcare, children's services and family support programs. These professionals play a key role in supporting the development and wellbeing of children and families, and they are currently on the frontlines as we face the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the College are looking to the government to provide leadership and direction to the early learning and child care sector regarding appropriate precautions. We were pleased to see this morning's announcement which proposes some assurances regarding job security for those who require a leave from work, however as vulnerable workers, RECEs are also concerned about their ability to support their families in the event of widespread closures.

The College shares and supports our members in these concerns and we recognize that there is a strong public interest in ensuring that these professionals have appropriate guidance and protection so that families and employers will continue to be able to rely on a strong, highly qualified and committed workforce.

In emergency situations the availability of timely and accurate information is crucial. We stand ready to work with government and with partners across the sector to support the profession through these challenging times and would be pleased to facilitate communication between government and Ontario's 55,000 RECEs as we face this challenge together. Feel free to reach out directly to bethd@college-ece.ca or (416) 961-8558 x. 225

Sincerely,



Stacey Lepine RECE
Council President



Beth Deazeley
Registrar & CEO