February 1, 2016

Dear Child Care and Early Years Partners,

This is an exciting time for Ontario’s early years system, and through our work together we are transforming our system into one of the best in the world.

On August 31, 2015, the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) came into effect, replacing the Day Nurseries Act. The CCEYA is Ontario’s new legislative framework that:

- Clearly defines programs that require a licence and those that are exempt to support informed choices about child care options;
- Increases access to licensed child care in home-based child care settings;
- Introduces greater enforcement tools and protections to strengthen oversight, enhance safety of children in licensed and unlicensed child care settings and respond to non-compliant child care providers;
- Strengthens quality in child care and early years programs.

The CCEYA also amended the Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007 (ECEA) to support the College of Early Childhood Educators to regulate the profession of Early Childhood Educators; and amended the Education Act to establish a duty for school boards to ensure the provision of before and after school programs for 6-12 year olds (BASP 6-12) in publicly-funded schools.

To continue the modernization of child care in Ontario, the ministry is taking a three-phased approach to the development and implementation of new regulations under the CCEYA. Under Phase 1, new regulations came into effect on August 31, 2015, related to licensing clarity, enforcement, licensing standards and children with special needs. Phase 1 regulations were intended to provide the necessary framework needed to ensure a seamless transition from the old regime to the new one.
The ministry is now consulting on Phase 2 regulations to continue to support the government’s vision for child care modernization and its commitment to have in place BASP 6-12. The proposed regulations focus on the following key areas:

- Service system management and funding
- Licensing clarity
- Enforcement
- Tiered Licensing – term of a licence
- Licensing standards
- Licensing fees
- BASP 6-12: Extended Day and Third Party Programs
- Miscellaneous regulations

Similar to Phase 1, Phase 2 regulatory proposals take into consideration contemporary research, best practices from other jurisdictions, advice received through previous public consultations (e.g. 2013/14 regulatory registry posting), and recommendations from the Ombudsman, Auditor General, and Chief Coroner.

As always, your feedback is important in modernizing the child care and early years system. Please take a moment to provide your advice on the proposed regulations on the Ontario Regulatory Website by April 1, 2016.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to Ontario’s children and families. I am confident that our strong partnership is helping children across Ontario get the best possible start in life.

Sincerely,

Liz Sandals
Minister