June 27, 2012

RE: Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together

Dear First Nation, Métis and Inuit Early Learning and Child Care Partners,

I am pleased to announce that the Government of Ontario is embarking on a series of discussions and engagement activities regarding the modernization of child care in Ontario. These engagement activities will support the government’s 2011 election platform commitment to “work with partners to modernize Ontario’s child care system and support centres as they transition to offering affordable care to families with younger children.” Additionally, the engagement activities will complement the government’s investments in child care announced on April 20, 2012 as part of the 2012 Ontario Budget.

The province is committed to leveraging the experience and insight of our partners as we modernize our system of early learning and child care service and program delivery, and work towards a high quality, more accessible and coordinated system that better supports children and families.

The attached discussion paper introduces a conversation about child care modernization. The paper outlines the government’s long-term vision for child care and seeks feedback on targeted medium-term objectives that will help us achieve that vision over the next three years.

The paper aims to capture some of the key child care issues identified and expressed by First Nation, Métis and Inuit individuals and organizations from across the province, notably the recognition that culture and language are critical aspects of quality early learning and child care. However, as this discussion paper is designed to speak to the entire child care system in Ontario, I encourage you to bring the unique perspectives of your communities to my attention.
Over the next three months, you will be able to provide written feedback on the content of the discussion paper via Ontario’s Regulatory Registry Website at http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry or by regular mail addressed to:

Child Care Modernization  
% Early Learning Division  
Ministry of Education  
900 Bay Street, 24th Floor Mowat Block  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

I encourage you to share this information with your communities. I invite all interested parties to provide feedback on the objectives and discussion questions as well as in any other areas related to early learning and child care not included in the paper. The advice we receive will help to inform the next steps towards the modernization of child care in Ontario.

I look forward to continued collaboration as we work together to modernize the early learning and child care system in First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities.

Yours truly,

Laurel Broten  
Minister

c: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Attachment:  
- Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together Discussion Paper