

Ministry of Education
Minister Responsible for
Early Years and Child Care
Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation
Ministre responsable de la
Petite Enfance et de la Garde d'enfants
Édifício Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



June 26, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you are aware, on June 6th, the Ministry of Education released Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework. The Early Years Division, Ministry of Education led a province wide consultation to develop the Renewed Framework and inform the implementation plan to help 100,000 more children access licensed child care over five years.

This investment will double the number of spaces for children aged 0-4 in licensed child care. With the commitment, there will be increased demand for high quality Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) and other front-line early years and child care staff in Ontario.

The government committed to Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Workforce Strategy so that families will continue to benefit from high-quality child care and early years programming delivered by engaged and knowledgeable educators. The objective of the workforce strategy is to develop ways to further support early years professionals in areas such as compensation, hiring, retention and professional development.

In order to support this very important work, we are seeking focused advice from experts such as yourself to help government move forward with a longer-term plan for growing the profession of early childhood educators and addressing the multiple complex issues facing the sector.

The government is committed to:

- Developing a workforce strategy, including a study to identify how the province can better support ECEs and other child care staff in areas that include: compensation, hiring, retention, education, training and governance.
- Confirming ongoing funding for wage enhancement while exploring other ways to improve the program.
- Providing ongoing support for professional development, including two provincially-funded professional learning days per year.
- Working with post-secondary institutions to support their continued work to graduate high quality Early Childhood Educators.
- Continuing to help people upgrade qualifications to obtain an ECE diploma, and become members of the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators.

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As a sub-group of the broader Minister's Early Years Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Group members would share their particular expertise, advising on the elements of the Workforce Strategy.

The first meeting will take place on July 31st and additional meetings will be scheduled as needed. Meetings will be held in Toronto, with options to participate via teleconference and Adobe Connect.

Travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed by the Early Years Division in accordance with Government of Ontario policies and directives.

Please send a response to Audrey-Maude Southière by July 5, 2017 at audrey-maude.southiere@ontario.ca. Please provide your representative's name and email address in your reply. A time, location and agenda for the initial meeting will follow in the coming weeks.

I look forward to your input and advice as we work together to transform Ontario's Early Years and Child Care system.

Sincerely,



Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care