March 7, 2014

Dear Child Care and Early Years Partners,

As you know, February 28th was the final day to submit your input and advice on the Proposal to Amend Regulation 262 under the Day Nurseries Act (DNA). We have received over 500 submissions which will inform any decisions moving forward.

I want to thank everyone who provided insights and feedback on this proposal and I know that the proposed amendments have generated a great deal of interest and stimulated many local conversations in communities across the province. These perspectives highlight the complexities in balancing child care quality, access, as well as affordability for families and costs for operators in Ontario.

I very much appreciate the thoughtful input that we have received thus far, and we will continue to consult with the sector as we contemplate potential adjustments.

Posting the proposal, and seeking your advice and comments, are early steps in an important process. I want to assure you that no decisions have been made on the proposed amendments. This engagement is part of our government’s commitment to support the child care needs of children and their families.

We are carefully reviewing the feedback we have received, and moving forward, we will actively engage with our partners in the sector to assess the possible alternatives. Following these discussions, and as part of our commitment to work together on child care modernization, we will report back over the course of the spring on these discussions and the subsequent steps to be taken.

Regulatory amendments will require a considerable amount of time to allow the sector to respond, including service managers, child care operators, and families. Throughout this process, we will work with you to plan and support a smooth transition.
Finally, as you know, in December our government introduced of Bill 143, *Child Care Modernization Act, 2013*. If passed, it will set the foundation to transform child care and early years services in Ontario. I know how long you have waited for an updated legislative framework that reflects our deepening understanding of early child development and better meets the needs of families, and I appreciate those of you who have publicly supported this proposed legislation.

Bill 143 is currently being debated in the Ontario legislature and is subject to the consent of the Legislative Assembly. The proposed legislation and information on its status can be found [here](#). I encourage you to take the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions as part of the legislative process.

Your ongoing participation is essential to ensuring Ontario families receive services that are both high quality and accessible. I look forward to continuing this conversation, as we work toward a more responsive, integrated system of quality child care and early years services.

Yours truly,

Liz Sandals  
Minister