

January 18, 2010

To: All Child Care Providers

Re: Ontario Must Address Child Care

At the last information session organized by the City of Windsor Children's Services with representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Children's Services, we were informed that the Ministry of Education is moving forward with the implementation of Full Day Early Learning. The sites have been selected and recruiting for Early Childhood Educators in the elementary school system is scheduled to begin as early as next month. We were also informed that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is developing strategies to assist child care providers during Phase 1 roll out implementation process.

We urge the Provincial Government to develop a funding formula as one of the strategies to support the operations and wages of child care providers. Base funding will stabilize child care providers left with the delivery of the most expensive care for children ages 0-3. It is a Provincial responsibility to fund child care adequately, to promote the healthy development of children and to provide supports and resources to parents to work, study, or care for other family members.

If the Province does not make Child Care a priority in this year's budget the impact of this will lead to a dramatic collapse of our Child Care system, including:

- Child Care centres will be forced to layoff staff and increase parent fees;
- Child Care Centres will have empty child care spaces;
- Centres will be forced to close within a matter of months, and all will become unstable.
- Thousands of low and middle income families will lose access to child care;
- Parents may have to leave their jobs or postpone going back to school;
- Families may be forced to choose inadequate or unsafe options for their children;

We are attaching a petition to the Provincial Government. Please send completed petitions to my attention and CAW Child Care Services will take responsibility to collectively send them to the Province.

Thank you in advance for your support for this crucial matter that affects us all!

Sincerely

Anna Angelidis
Executive Director
: /Enclosure

