

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministry of Children
and Youth Services

Ministère des Services
à l'enfance et à la jeunesse



June 15, 2009

Dear Stakeholders,

We are writing to you with reference to Dr. Charles Pascal's report *With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario*. The report is available at <http://www.ontario.ca/earlylearning>.

Our government is grateful that so many of you chose to participate in the extensive consultation Dr. Pascal conducted over the past 18 months. Your input was invaluable to him and has played an enormous role in framing his advice.

Dr. Pascal's report paints an exciting vision for early learning in Ontario. We are inspired by it and the future it sets out for children and families in our province. While we are energized by Dr. Pascal's bold vision, we know that it implies some significant changes to how we support children and families. We will need your participation and leadership as we move forward.

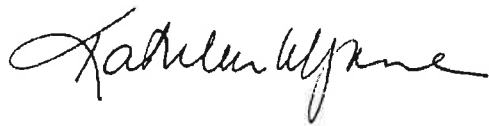
Our government has committed to invest \$200 million in 2010/11 and \$300 million in 2011/12 for full-day learning. We have always intended that this program would be phased-in over time, beginning in September 2010. The breadth of Dr. Pascal's vision makes that phasing even more important to ensure stable, quality and affordable services that produce real results for our children and our province. As he noted in his report, "quality should trump speed." We need to take this opportunity to get it right.

Thanks to the extensive consultations that have taken place, many of you will see your ideas reflected in Dr. Pascal's report. Your views are extremely important to us. Since 2003, we have worked closely with our partners in schools, municipalities, child care and early learning. Our collaboration with you has been invaluable in delivering improved results for Ontarians and their families. We will build on and enhance these remarkable partnerships with our early learning initiative. We will be engaging with you in the coming weeks as we move forward with implementation.

We believe that taking action on early learning is one of the most important investments we can make. As Dr. Pascal says, it is an investment in “our best future,” for children and families, and for our province’s economic prosperity.

We look forward to working with you to get there.

Sincerely,



Kathleen O. Wynne
Minister of Education



Deb Matthews
Minister of Children and Youth Services