

The Premier
of Ontario

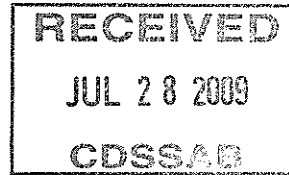
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



July 24, 2009



Mr. Gary Scripnick
President
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
120-38 Pine Street North
Timmins, Ontario
P4N 6K6

Dear Mr. Scripnick:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association regarding early childhood education and Dr. Charles Pascal's recent report. I appreciate hearing from you about this important matter.

Our government understands that early childhood education helps to improve student achievement and prepare children for school. We strongly believe that all children should have access to the tools they need to succeed in life. As you know, early learning not only helps children get the best possible start in school, but also has a dramatic and lasting effect on the way children learn.

We recognize that this is a complex task — Dr. Pascal's ambitious report presents many exciting ideas and opportunities for the future of early learning in Ontario. As we move forward, his expertise in education, training, and policy development will play a key role in realizing our vision for early learning and child care, and help us develop an innovative model that builds on our existing programs. Over the course of the summer, we will work with Dr. Pascal and our other partners to determine the next phases of this transformational initiative. Be assured we remain committed to giving children and their families the support they need to thrive and reach their full potential.

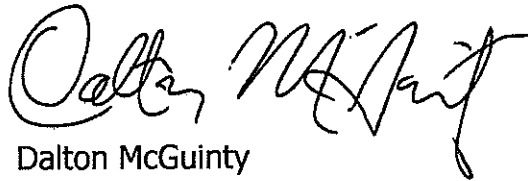
I note that you have also sent a copy of your letter to my colleague the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education. As she would be in the best position to address the issues you raised, I have asked that the minister or a member of her staff respond to you directly.

... 2



Thank you again for writing. I value and welcome your input and participation. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dalton" being the most prominent.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

c: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
The Honourable Deb Matthews



**NORTHERN ONTARIO
SERVICE DELIVERERS
ASSOCIATION**

www.nosda.net

July 14, 2009

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA). We are an association of the 11 Districts in Northern Ontario responsible for the delivery of social assistance, social housing, early learning/child care, land ambulance and related services.

Like most municipal associations we are generally pleased with the recommendations of the Early Learning Advisor and the report "With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario". We think that the municipal role and system leadership envisioned by Dr. Pascal will strengthen the early learning system and lead to positive outcomes for Ontario's children and communities.

Over the next year we look forward to participating in the planning processes that will begin the phased implementation plans. One potential difficulty in developing community plans will be the widely different geographic boundaries between Municipal CMSMs/DSSABs, Public School Boards and Separate School Boards. This lack of coterminous boundaries is most acute in Northern Ontario and rural Southern Ontario. It is less a problem in the larger urban regions.

Northern CMSMs/DSSABs often have two or three School Boards within their jurisdiction and, conversely, each School Board cuts across multiple CMSMs/DSSABs. Some standardized planning framework and provincial direction on this issue is called for.

It is our position at NOSDA that the best process would be to have CMSMs/DSSABs convene the local Early Learning planning process and that plans be developed based on CMSM/DSSAB boundaries. There are 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers in Ontario.

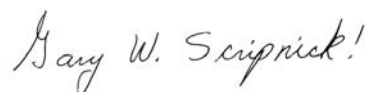
Our reasons for this include:

- The public is most aware of District/County/Region boundaries across Ontario and have an **identity as a resident** of that upper tier municipality. School board boundaries are less well known and have less of a sense of citizen identity.
- CMSMs/DSSABs have a strong experience in multi-stakeholder processes. Across Ontario the Best Start planning process was conceived and maintained by CMSM/DSSABs and led to **excellent collaborative plans** and generated considerable outcomes among the wide range of community agencies.
- Municipal leadership would help ensure broad linkages with allied service systems – public health, recreation, libraries, transportation and economic development – tied to the municipal sector. It would help establish the **integrated human service planning processes** that are heralded in the recent Provincial – Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review as well as Dr. Pascal's report. These benefits may be more immediate in urban Regions that have many functions administratively integrated, but over time could benefit all CMSMs/DSSABs.

Members of our association would be very willing to meet with Provincial representatives to discuss this matter and explore this idea further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary Scipnick
President, NOSDA

c.c. Charles Pascal, Early Learning Advisor
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education
The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Kira Heineck, Executive Director, OMSSA
Pat Vanini, Executive Director, AMO