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August 8, 2011

To Mayors and Councils,

We are writing to ask that you and your Council endorse a day of recognition for the many people who work providing care to children in your community. This year will mark the 11th Anniversary of our Awareness Day which recognizes the education, skills, commitment and dedication of Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Staff.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and our other labour partners representing child care workers across Ontario are asking that Wednesday, October 26, 2011 be proclaimed as ***Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day*** in accordance with the attached resolution.

Many groups are recognized by way of Municipal Resolution. Such a day allows the community to recognize the work of various groups and to acknowledge the contributions they make in the lives of community members.

Many children, families and communities benefit from the work of child care workers. Child care also contributes to the economic life of communities. Research shows the many economic benefits accrued from affordable, accessible high quality child care. These benefits come from the number of people employed in the child care industry and because the availability of child care allows parents to work and to contribute to the economic life of society.

Even if your Council does not issue official proclamations, there are many ways for your municipality to participate in and celebrate this special day. We ask your Council to sponsor public announcements, display our posters and distribute buttons. Many municipalities also organize events and contests for the day or have Councillors or the Mayor participate in events hosted by child care centres within the municipality. A list of ideas and examples is attached.

We hope that your proclamation of this day of appreciation, or your active support, will encourage and promote a day of community recognition for child care workers. Please fax the attached order to request posters and buttons to help you raise awareness and celebrate.

Please advise us of your participation in this day of recognition so that we can acknowledge your community's role in celebrating child care workers across Ontario on October 26th. Please direct any correspondence on proclamations and/or celebration activities to the attention of Kathy Johnson, by mail: CUPE, 305 Milner Avenue, Suite 800, Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4, or by fax: 416-292-2839.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Hehn".

President, CUPE Ontario

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Saarikoski".

Tracy Saarikoski
President, OCBCC

cc: CMSMs/DSSABs

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