

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Minister

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June 23, 2011

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Mr. Les Gamble
Chair
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Boulevard
Espanola ON P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Gamble,

Premier McGuinty forwarded to me your letter about resolutions adopted by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board concerning the management and stabilization of child care programs. I am pleased to respond.

Our government recognizes that the movement of four- and five-year-olds into publicly funded full-day kindergarten (FDK) programs will have an impact on child care and that this will vary from community to community. That is why we have committed phased-in transition funding, growing to \$51 million annually at full implementation, in addition to \$12 million in capital funding for retrofits and renovations to support child care for younger children. This funding will be flowed through the municipalities as the service system managers for child care.

Since FDK will be phased in gradually, it will allow municipalities, child care operators and communities to adjust to the changes the new initiative will bring. With that in mind, we encourage you to work with your local school boards to determine the possible impact of FDK and explore the options.

My colleague Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services, with assistance from the Premier's Early Learning Advisor, Dr. Charles Pascal, is leading the development of integrated services for parents of infants and young children. This approach means programs and services can be accessed in a more coordinated, timely and efficient way, and includes Ontario Early Years Centres and Best Start Child and Family Centres.

Moving to a system of integrated services by creating child and family centres is a challenging and complex change that will take time to implement. Municipalities are key partners in this process and our government will continue to work with them throughout it. We will also continue to monitor the impact of FDK on child care operators as the program is expanded to more communities.

Thank you for writing. We look forward to continuing to work with you to further improve the programs and services for children and families in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Education

c: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier