



May 4, 2011

Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

Re: Best Start Child and Family Centres

The Province announced the transfer of child care responsibility to the Ministry of Education and a continued commitment to the recommendations of Pascal's report which included a fully integrated system of early learning and child care for all children from birth to age twelve.

The Pascal Report sets out the vision for an integrated system of services for families and children delivered through Best Start Child and Family Centres. The Province has committed to stabilizing and enhancing licensed child care services for children from birth to age four. The Province has reiterated the role of municipal service managers as partners in the transformation of the early learning system.

The purpose of this letter is to bring it to your attention that, at its regularly monthly meeting of April 28, 2011, the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board adopted Resolution No. 11-39 requesting that:

- the Province transfer the full management of children's programs to DSSABs and CMSMs, including the Ontario Early Years Centre funding;
- the Ministry of Education adequately fund the already fragile child care system in Ontario so that it can adjust to the movement of four- and five-year-olds into the school system and refocus on expanding much needed services for younger children;
- the Province engage in collaborative discussions with DSSABs and CMSMs as the municipal service managers identified as partners in the development of Best Start Child and Family Centres.

A duly authorized copy of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Resolution No. 11-39 is attached.

We look forward to working with the province as partners to ensure that children in our communities get the best start in life through a fully integrated system of early learning and child care.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Les Gamble".

Les Gamble, Chair

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education
Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of Children & Youth Services

Attach (1)