

2015: EY2

MEMORANDUM TO: Early Years Partners

FROM: Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: June 8, 2015

SUBJECT: **Implementation of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and New Regulations**

In December 2014, the *Child Care Modernization Act, 2014* was passed by the Legislature and received Royal Assent. The new legislation will modernize and strengthen Ontario's child care system in order to better support parents and give children the best possible start in life. In addition, it will also improve oversight in both the licensed and unlicensed child care sectors.

The Act will support the government's work to modernize child care by:

- Replacing the *Day Nurseries Act*, the current statute governing child care, with a new *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* that will set the foundation for a high quality, integrated system of child care and early years services and supports for children aged 0-12.
- Amending the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*.
- Amending the *Education Act* to require school boards to ensure the provision of before and after school programs for 6-12 year olds where there is sufficient demand and giving the ministry authority to regulate fees charged for the use of school buildings to operators of third party programs, child care, and early years programs.

With the exception of the amendments to the *Education Act* requiring school boards to ensure the provision of before and after school programs, all other sections of the *Child Care Modernization Act, 2014* will be proclaimed on **August 31, 2015**.

To support the new legislation, the government drafted a broad range of regulations that must be in place for the new legislation to take effect. From March 24, 2015 to May 11, 2015, the draft regulatory proposals were posted on the Ontario Regulatory Registry website for public comment. Thank you to all of the stakeholders and partners that provided feedback during this process. The comments and advice received were taken into consideration when finalizing the regulations.

The following new regulations have now been filed with the registrar of regulations and published on the e-Laws website:

- O. Reg. 137/2015: General
<http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r15137>
- O. Reg. 138/2015: Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance
<http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r15138>

The new regulations are made under the authority of the [Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014](#) and will also be in effect as of **August 31, 2015**. The regulations along with the new *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* will replace the *Day Nurseries Act* and related regulations, as the new legislative framework governing child care in Ontario.

Key Changes under the New Legislative Framework

I encourage you to read through, and familiarize yourself with the new legislative and regulatory provisions but it is important to note that many of the existing provisions under the *Day Nurseries Act* will be carried forward under the new regulations.

While many of you will join me in celebrating what is clearly an exciting and monumental achievement, the government recognizes that this is also a time of significant change. To help support child care providers and Ontario's families during this transition, attached to this memorandum is an information resource, "*What Providers and Parents Need to Know*". This resource has been developed to assist providers and parents with updated rules under the new legislative framework. This includes new requirements related to enforcement, health and safety, school-age ratios, and quality programming.

I encourage you to share this resource broadly with families and other early years partners. The resource can also be found on the Ontario government's website at: <http://www.ontario.ca/children-and-youth/find-and-pay-child-care> .

Minister's Policy Statement on Programming and Pedagogy

A key feature of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* is the focus on strengthening child care programs and ensuring high quality experiences for children. As such, subsection 55 (3) of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* authorizes the Minister of Education to issue policy statements for the purpose of guiding operators of child care and early years programs.

Attached is a copy of the Minister's policy statement which names *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014)* as the document to be used for the purpose of guiding programming and pedagogy in licensed child care programs. Please refer to the Policy Statement for further details. The Minister's Policy Statement can also be found on the Ontario government's website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/programCCEYA.pdf> .

Please note: The Minister's Policy Statement will apply to all licensed child care settings including third-party child care providers offering licensed before and after-school programs in schools. School boards that directly deliver extended day programs are also strongly encouraged to adopt the approaches outlined in *How Does Learning Happen?* to support consistency and alignment across the province.

How Does Learning Happen? is intended as a resource for all early years settings and I encourage all those who work with children and their families to access this document. The resource can be found on the Ministry of Education's website:
<https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HowLearningHappens.pdf>

Child Care and Early Years Act Webcast

On Tuesday, **June 23, 2015**, the Early Years Division will be holding a webcast to discuss the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and new regulations. A formal invitation providing further details will be issued electronically shortly. Following a presentation by Early Years Divisional staff, participants will have an opportunity to have their questions answered through a live question and answer period.

Please note, for anyone who is unable to participate on June 23, 2015, the webcast will be archived and made publically available. Further details will be communicated once the archived version becomes available.

Development of Future Regulations

As previously communicated, the new regulations mark the beginning of a staged approach to the development and implementation of new regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*. As the government continues this work, we will be reaching out to the sector once again to seek feedback and advice.

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication. Your commitment, engagement and partnership are the foundation to building a more responsive, integrated system of quality child care and early years services. Together, we are helping Ontario's children get the best possible start in life. I look forward to continuing our strong and ongoing partnership.

Yours truly,



Jim Grieve

c: Lois Mahon, President, College of Early Childhood Educators