

Ministry of Education

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June 27, 2012

RE: Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together

Dear Early Learning and Child Care Partners,

I am pleased to announce that the Government of Ontario is embarking on a series of discussions and engagement activities regarding the modernization of child care in Ontario. These engagement activities will support the government's 2011 election platform commitment to "work with partners to modernize Ontario's child care system and support centres as they transition to offering affordable care to families with younger children." Additionally, the engagement activities will complement the government's investments in child care announced on April 20, 2012 as part of the 2012 Ontario Budget.

Since 2003, our government has made great strides in early learning, including rolling out full-day kindergarten (FDK). This is the biggest transformation in our education system in a generation and it is the best investment we can make in our children and the future prosperity of our province. Like FDK, child care plays a critical role in promoting healthy development and giving kids a stronger start. As FDK is implemented, it is clear that we need to build on the work to date and develop a comprehensive vision and plan for child care that works with FDK.

The province is committed to leveraging the experience and insight of our partners as we modernize our system of early learning and child care service and program delivery, and work towards a high quality, more accessible and coordinated system that better supports children and families.

The attached discussion paper introduces a conversation about child care modernization. The paper outlines the government's long-term vision for child care and seeks feedback on targeted medium-term objectives that will help us achieve that vision over the next three years.

Over the next three months, you will be able to provide written feedback on the content of the discussion paper via Ontario's Regulatory Registry Website at <http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry> or by regular mail addressed to:

Child Care Modernization
% Early Learning Division
Ministry of Education
900 Bay Street, 24th Floor Mowat Block
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I encourage you to share this information with your networks, and I invite all interested parties to provide feedback on the objectives and discussion questions. Your advice will help to inform the next steps towards the modernization of child care in Ontario.

I look forward to continued collaboration as we enrich our conversations with the early learning and child care community in Ontario.

Yours truly,



Laurel Broten
Minister

Attachment:

- *Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together* Discussion Paper