

From: "Ministry of Education (EDU)"

Date: December 6, 2018 at 5:00:24 PM EST

Subject: Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act: Legislative Amendments related to Child Care and Early Years Programs

MEMORANDUM TO: Child Care and Early Years Partners

FROM: The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education

DATE: December 6, 2018

SUBJECT: *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act*: Legislative Amendments related to Child Care and Early Years Programs

Dear Partners,

This year, the people of Ontario gave our government a clear mandate to make life easier for families all across this province.

As Minister of Education, I believe that a strong child care and early years system plays a key role in helping families raise their children. Quality programs allow parents to pursue their career goals while simultaneously giving their children benefits to help them better prepare for school and for life.

This is why we are working hard to create a new child care plan for Ontario, a plan that helps make life easier for families by:

1. Reducing red tape and administrative burden
2. Making child care more affordable
3. Increasing choice and availability for families, and
4. Improving quality and delivering high standards of care

Our first steps toward this plan were taken already with the release of the 2018 Child Care Service Management and Funding Guideline, which gave local service system managers more choice in allocating funding to better serve the needs of their communities.

Our next step includes the proposal of four legislative amendments to the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA) and the *Education Act* that were introduced in the Legislature today as part of the government's proposed *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act*. These proposed amendments are designed to help make it easier for home-based child care providers and authorized recreational and skill building programs to serve more children by:

1. Lowering the age at which home child care providers must count their own children towards the maximum allowable number of children in care, from 6 to 4 years old
2. Reducing the age requirement for authorized recreational and skill building programs that serve children after school from 6 to 4 years old
3. Increasing the number of young children that home child care providers can have in their care, from two under 2 years old to three under 2 years old, and
4. Removing the restriction that a parent must receive financial assistance before in-home services can be provided for their child.

The first two of these proposed amendments would better align the child care and early years system with schools, and reflect the fact that children in Ontario are eligible to attend kindergarten in the year that they turn four years old. The third and fourth proposed amendments are designed to increase flexibility for home child care providers (both licensed and independent home child care providers).

In addition to these amendments, the ministry also intends to consult with the sector on a broad series of regulatory updates under the CCEYA. These proposals will be designed to give families more affordable quality child care options while further reducing administrative burden for families, service system managers, child care operators, early childhood educators, and home-based child care providers. More information about this consultation will be provided early in the New Year.

The effective provision of child care and early years programs and services requires dedication, skill and coordination across this province. I thank you for all your help and I hope you stay engaged with the ministry as we take steps together to help families and children all across Ontario.

Sincerely,
The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Education