



Alert - Proposed Changes to the Day Nurseries Act

Call / Email Premier McGuinty – tell him you do not want to see lower quality in Ontario’s early learning and child care sector. Telephone 416-325-1941, Email dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

What is the issue?

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is proposing changes to the Day Nurseries Act (DNA) that will compromise quality and accountability in our early learning and child care programs. These changes include lowering the adult-to-child ratio by having adults care for larger groups of younger children.

Background:

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is in the process of conducting consultations regarding proposed changes to the DNA. The changes are being presented as a solution to the financial challenges programs are facing as a result of the pending 63.5 million dollar cut to child care and the transition to full day learning. A consultation document regarding proposed changes has been prepared by the government and is available at:

http://www.aeceo.ca/files/user_files/MCYS_regulatory_amendments.pdf

Why we do not support these changes:

- Although changes are being proposed as options – lower ratios mean lower government funding and lower minimum standards. The rush to make changes doesn’t make sense at this time. Government should concentrate on stabilizing funding, implementing the early learning program and the planning for Best Start Child and Family Centres.
- The Ministry has said that proposed changes are in line with other jurisdictions. What is the matter with Ontario having higher standards – has the government not said that it wants to be a leader in early learning and child care?
- Proposed DNA changes will further demoralize the early learning and child care sector, which has fought to maintain quality care for children and their families.
- Changes to the regulations are not a substitute for the adequate and stable funding needed to support the health, safety and care of young children.
- Children and families would be better served if legislative and regulatory changes were made to address real issues in implementation rather than funding issues. This would be consistent with the early learning report commissioned by the government. It recommends legislative changes be made two to three years down the road.

How can we let government know that we do not agree with the proposed changes?

- Contact the Premier’s office and your local MPP to voice your concerns.
- Keep checking for the public consultation posting on the government’s **Regulatory Registry** site: <http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/> or stay tuned for AECEO/OCBCC alerts. Once the regulations have been posted the public has 30 days to respond.
- Urge others including colleagues and parents to contact the Premier and their local MPPs regarding this issue.

How will the AECEO and OCBCC address this issue?

- We will continue to dialogue with the government concerning DNA changes.
- We will continue to update our members on DNA issues that impact quality and accountability in our programs.
- We will work closely with all like-minded organizations to further demonstrate to government the strength behind our concerns.

For more information on the issue, or if you have specific questions for the AECEO or OCBCC, please contact:

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