

Executive Director's Report

On the College of ECEs....

The AECEO has received continued assurance from Minister of Children and Youth Services, Mary Anne Chambers, that the College of Early Childhood Educators remains on their agenda. The Ministry of Children and Youth Service's website echoes this commitment:

"Other components of Best Start include

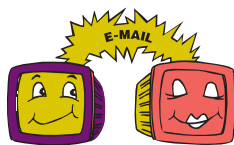
- In November 2004, Ontario eliminated restrictions on child care subsidies for parents with RRSPs and RESP's. Now, we are going to develop a new way to determine eligibility for child care subsidies based on income. By moving to a sliding scale income test that municipalities will use to decide who is eligible for a child care subsidy, more families will be able to access child care.
- Plans are under way for a proposed new College of Early Childhood Educators to establish high professional standards for quality child care and early learning programs.
- We established the following expert panels to guide the implementation of Best Start:
 - The Expert Panel on the Enhanced 18-Month Well Baby Visit has drafted a report that will provide the basis for a strategy to support a standardized developmental assessment for each child at 18 months of age in Ontario.
 - The Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources is looking at professional education, recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood education professionals and ways to improve quality licensed and informal child care.
 - The Expert Panel on an Early Learning Program is developing an early learning framework for preschool children that can link to junior and senior kindergarten learning programs, and ultimately become a single integrated learning program for children in preschool and junior and senior kindergarten.
- Enhancements to Ontario's ongoing prevention and early intervention programs means we can identify babies at risk early and help families get the advice and services they need to give their newborns the best chance for healthy development and to help children with language and hearing disorders develop the communication skills they'll need to succeed in school."

(Source: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/programs/BestStart/default.htm>)

Though the College of ECE is on the horizon and the current provincial government is committed to establishing it, the AECEO's work on LR is not over. The AECEO must continue to inform and educate not only the public, but all individuals in the ECE field. To do this, the AECEO has created and will continue to create a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet for distribution (see page 6). We invite all our members to submit their questions (their own, or gathered from their students and colleagues) to the AECEO so we may add it to our FAQ sheets.



Eduarda Sousa
Executive Director



ARE YOU CONNECTED?

AECEO MEMBERS: A website is currently under development that will have a MEMBERS ONLY area. This area will contain forums, resources, job and event postings. To access the area, you must enter your username. Your username is "firstname.lastname" - for example, if your name is "Jane Doe", then your username will be "jane.doe" (without the quotes). Click *Forgot Password?* and a randomly assigned password will be emailed to **your email address** that is currently registered in our database. All passwords were randomly created by the website and should be changed when you log in. To prepare for this event, you must ensure we have your current and private email address in our files. When the website is launched, a reminder and instructions on how to access the MEMBERS ONLY area will be sent to branches and members via email. To update or register your email information, contact aeceo@bellnet.ca with your name, membership number and email address.