

Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators

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Ministry of Children and Youth Services

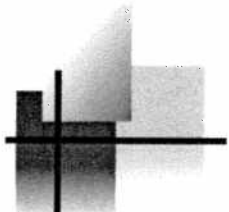
May 31, 2007

Kingston, Ontario



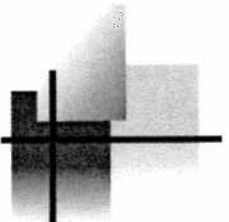
Overview

- In its election platform, the Ontario government committed to developing the Best Start Plan, a high quality system of early learning and care in Ontario to support student success and help young children arrive at school ready and eager to succeed.
- An important objective of the Best Start Plan is strengthening the quality of Ontario's early learning and care system. In order to meet this objective, the government committed to establishing a College of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) to protect the public, set professional standards and help meet the training needs of early childhood educators across the province.



What will the College of ECES do?

- The College of ECES will have three primary duties:
 1. Protecting the public
 2. Regulating the profession:
 - Standards of practice
 - Code of Ethics
 - Complaints and Disciplinary Processes
 3. Establishing required qualifications
 - Entry to practice
 - Professional development



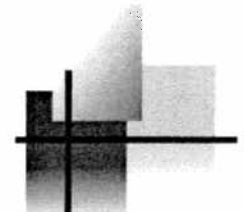
Creating a College of ECCEs – The Process

- In March 2005, MCYS established the College of Early Childhood Educators Working Group to develop a model for a College of ECCEs for consideration by the provincial government.
- A series of feedback sessions on the model were held in the fall of 2005, and feedback from these sessions was incorporated in the recommended model.
- In September 2006, the ministry was directed to proceed with drafting of legislation.



Legislation

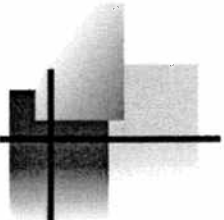
- On March 22, 2007 the government of Ontario tabled *Bill 187, Budget Measures and Interim Appropriation Act, 2007*.
- This bill included Schedule 8: *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*.
- *Bill 187, Budget Measures and Interim Appropriation Act, 2007* received Royal Assent on May 17th, 2007.



Overview of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*

The *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007* sets out the authority and responsibilities of the College. It includes:

- A definition of the profession;
- Establishing a College of Early Childhood Educators to regulate the profession of early childhood education;
- Mandatory membership;
- Roles and responsibilities of Registrar, Registration Appeals Committee, Complaints Committee, Discipline Committee and Fitness to Practice Committee, committee procedures; and
- Transitional provisions



Parts of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*

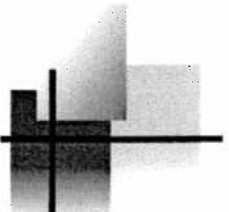
The *Early Childhood Education Act, 2007* includes several parts:

- **Part 1** sets out definitions for purposes of the Act and defines the scope of practice for the profession of early childhood education.



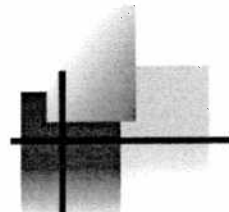
Scope of Practice

- The practice of early childhood education is the planning and delivery of inclusive play-based learning and care programs for children in order to promote the well-being and holistic development of children, and includes,
 - (a) the delivery of programs to pre-school children and school-aged children, including children with special needs;
 - (b) the assessment of the programs and of the progress of children in the programs;
 - (c) communication with the parents or persons with legal custody of the children in the programs in order to improve the development of the children; and
 - (d) such other services or activities as may be prescribed by regulation.



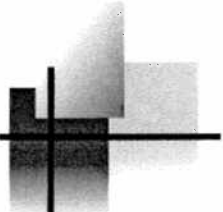
Parts of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*

- **Part 2** sets out title protection and the exceptions, (i.e. those persons or groups that are excluded from the profession of early childhood education).
- **Part 3** describes the College of Early Childhood Educators.
- **Part 4** describes the registration process for persons applying to be members of the College. It describes the Registration Appeals Committee function where the Registrar proposes to refuse to issue a certificate of registration or to impose terms, conditions or limitations on the certificate. It requires the Registrar to maintain a register which is open for inspection by members of the public.



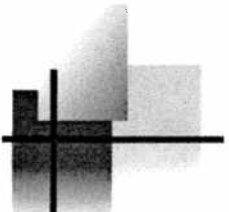
Parts of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*

- **Part 5** sets out the duties and procedures of the Complaints Committee, the Discipline Committee and the Fitness to Practise Committee.
- **Part 6** provides a reinstatement process for members whose certificates of registration have been revoked or suspended. It also permits members to apply to have terms, conditions, or limitations imposed as a result of proceedings.
- **Part 7** sets out the right of members to a proceeding to appeal to the Divisional Court and sets out the powers of the Divisional Court on appeal.



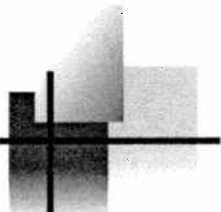
Parts of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*

- **Part 8** sets out the Registrar's powers of investigation. Investigators may be appointed by the Registrar in cases where there is reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a member has committed an act of professional misconduct or is incompetent or incapacitated, or that there is cause to refuse to issue a certificate or to suspend or revoke a certificate or to impose terms, conditions or limitations on the certificate..



Parts of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*

- **Part 9** permits the Council to make regulations, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council and prior review by the Minister.
- **Part 10** contains 11 miscellaneous provisions ranging from procedures to offences.
- **Part 11** deals with the appointment of a transitional Council by the Minister as well as the provision of initial certificates of registration.



Next Steps

- The Lieutenant Governor in Council will proclaim key sections of the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007* that the transitional Council will need to fulfill its mandate.
- After proclamation, the Minister of Children and Youth Services will appoint a transitional Council and set a transitional period through regulation
- The Lieutenant Governor in Council will proclaim the remainder of the Act during the transitional period, prior to the election of the first Council.



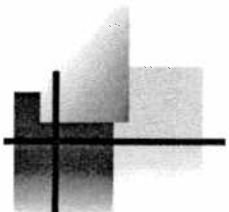
Transitional Council

- The appointed transitional Council will set up the College within the transitional period.
- The transitional Council will be comprised of individuals with expertise in:
 - The ECE profession
 - Public interest
 - Self-regulation



Transitional Council

- The mandate of the transitional Council will include:
 - Hiring a Registrar
 - Drafting regulations and by-laws
 - Leasing office space
 - Establishing membership criteria
 - Consulting with the field on various matters (such as a Code of Ethics)
 - Developing a communication plan
 - Overseeing the first election of the Council
- The mandate does not include disciplinary hearings. This will be the responsibility of the first elected and appointed Council.



For More Information

For information on the structure of other self-regulating professions:

- Ontario College of Teachers
<http://www.oct.ca>
- Ontario College of Social Workers
<http://www.ocswssw.org>
- College of Nurses of Ontario
<http://www.cno.org>



For More Information

- The *Early Childhood Educator Act, 2007* may be accessed online through the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

<http://www.ontla.on.ca>

- More information will be made available on the Ministry of Children and Youth Services website:

www.children.gov.on.ca