

Appendix 1

Recommendations to be presented to the Ministry of Education

Through its membership with the OMSSA Children's Services Network, Niagara Region Children's Services was involved in discussions with counterparts from across Ontario, and drafted the following recommendations to be presented to the MEDU in response to the federal national child care plan:

- The Ministry of Education should reconsider previously announced changes to administrative funding and cost-sharing post COVID-19, and look to sustain, reopen and expand the child care system in Ontario
- Provincial allocations and capital expansion funds should be, at a minimum maintained, and community-based operating and capital funds are also needed to expand licensed centre-based and home child care, as further capacity is urgently required to address growing demands for licensed child care
- Request Service System Manager involvement in the development of a provincial response to the proposed national child care plan
- Incentives should be provided to encourage unlicensed providers to enter into the licensed system, to ensure oversight that currently does not exist
- Along with investments to expand high-quality licensed child care spaces, fees must be affordable to parents so that they are able to access child care
- Provincial government develop a strategy for the recruitment and retention of Registered Early Childhood Educators, and ensure they are compensated adequately in recognition of their years of education and critical role in licensed child care
- Maintaining and enhancing funding for operating costs and fee subsidies is crucial to addressing affordability in child care
- Province consider an increase of the fee subsidy threshold to match the Low-Income Measure After-Tax (LIM-AT), adjusted for family size and indexed to inflation
- Ministry of Education to take action to improve collaboration between Service System Managers and local school boards across Ontario