

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifce Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



March 24, 2015

Dear Early Years and Child Care Partners,

This is an exciting time for Ontario's early years system, and through our work together we are transforming our system into one of the best in the world. This is a true testament to the hard work and dedication shown by you, our valued child care and early years partners.

The modernization of child care in Ontario remains one of our top priorities. In December, the passage of Bill 10, the *Child Care Modernization Act, 2014*, was a monumental step towards building a child care and early years system that is high-quality, seamless, and more accessible for Ontario's children and families.

However, the legislation is not yet in effect and proclamation is not expected to happen before Fall 2015. Once proclaimed, the Act will enact the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and repeal the existing *Day Nurseries Act*.

To proclaim the legislation, the ministry has drafted regulatory proposals that must be in place in order for the legislation to operate. The regulatory proposals will provide additional information for child care providers, parents/guardians and the general public about how the new legislation will be put into practice.

The proposed regulations address four priorities:

- licensing clarity
- enforcement
- licensing standards
- special needs

The proposed regulations also reflect advice we have received to date and take the following into consideration:

- Feedback received through the Regulatory Registry posting in Winter 2013/14, with certain regulatory proposals from that posting now being included in this round of proposed regulations;
- Advice provided by the Ontario Office of the Ombudsman last fall, to support compliance and strengthen oversight of unlicensed child care settings;
- Advice and recommendations provided by the Office of the Auditor General to support and strengthen the quality of child care programs in Ontario;
- Input and advice received through the release of the discussion paper on Modernizing Child Care in Ontario in June 2012; and
- Current research and practice from Ontario, as well as across Canada and internationally, on the types of standards, interactions, experiences, environments and pedagogical approaches that are best for children.

We are planning an incremental and phased process to implement the provisions under the new Act. This will support a smooth and gradual transition, and reduce disruptions to service. It will also help families and operators prepare for changes under the new Act. In the meantime, the *Day Nurseries Act* and its regulations will continue to be in effect while the ministry engages with its partners.

As always, your feedback is important in modernizing the child care and early years system. Please take a moment to provide your advice on the proposed regulations on the Ontario Regulatory

Website: <http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=17882&language=en>

Comments must be received by May 11, 2015.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to Ontario's children and families. I am confident that our strong partnership is helping children across Ontario get the best possible start in life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Liz Sandals  
Minister