

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Child Care and Early Years Partners

**FROM:** Shannon Fuller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division

**DATE:** April 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Legislative and regulatory updates to the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and the *Education Act*

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Dear Early Years Partners,

The government is developing a new plan for child care in Ontario that is intended to make life easier for families by:

1. Reducing red tape and administrative burden
2. Making child care more affordable
3. Increasing choice and availability for families, and
4. Improving quality and delivering high standards of care

As part of that plan, the Ministry of Education is pleased to provide an update on new legislative amendments made under Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2019* and to announce a series of proposed regulatory amendments under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA) and the *Education Act*.

**Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2019**

On April 3, 2019, [Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2019](#), received Royal Assent. Bill 66 includes four legislative amendments to the CCEYA and the *Education Act*. These amendments will help make it easier for home-based child care providers and authorized recreational and skill building programs to better serve children and families by:

1. Aligning the age at which home-based child care providers must count their own children towards the maximum allowable number of children in care, from 6 to 4 years old (the age at which most children attend school full time).

2. Increasing access to after-school programming by reducing the age at which children can access authorized recreational and skill building programs, from 6 to 4 years old.
3. Increasing access to infant care by expanding the number of children that home-based child care providers can have in their care, from two under 2 years old to three under 2 years old.
4. Eliminating a requirement that limited when a licensed home child care agency could provide in-home services (i.e., licensed child care that takes place in a child's home).

As a result of the passing of Bill 66, these four legislative amendments will come into effect as of July 1st, 2019.

Until these amendments come into force, please note that all current provisions under the CCEYA and the *Education Act* will continue to apply.

### **Public Consultation on Proposed Regulatory Amendments**

A series of proposed regulatory amendments are now posted on the Regulatory Registry and available for public comment.

These proposed amendments are based on best practices, lessons learned, and stakeholder feedback. They are focused on removing duplicative, unnecessary and onerous requirements for child care licensees and providers. They aim to save time and provide clarity and flexibility for licensees and providers, making it easier for them to comply with the rules. The proposed changes also clarify and align requirements so that children have a consistent standard of care across child care settings.

The Ministry of Education values the unique and diverse perspectives of our child care and early years partners. Proposed regulatory changes are posted on the Regulatory Registry for public comment until May 19, 2019 at this website link:

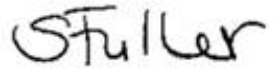
<https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=29146&language=en>

You may also send your response by e-mail to: [CCGE\\_modernization@ontario.ca](mailto:CCGE_modernization@ontario.ca) or by mail to:

Regulatory Registry Feedback  
c/o Early Years and Child Care Division  
Ministry of Education  
315 Front Street West, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting the child care and early years needs of families in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SFuller". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the 'S' and 'F' being particularly prominent.

Shannon Fuller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division