

March 1, 2021

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: Regulatory Amendments under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*

I am writing to inform you of next steps in relation to the five-year review of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA).

I would like to start by thanking you for your on-going work with the early years and child care sector in helping to ensure a high quality and safe early learning and child care experience for Ontario's children. Recently, this has been seen in the delivery of emergency child care during the period where elementary schools were closed for in-person learning. Your partnership and efforts to keep schools open for this purpose helped to support up to 5,000 children of front-line workers per day at the peak of the program.

The *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* mandates a review of the legislation after five years of coming into force. Throughout the summer and fall, the Ministry of Education (the "ministry") consulted widely to gather ideas on how to strengthen child care and early years programs and services in Ontario. We heard from over 15,000 families and stakeholders through our surveys this summer and received over 460 written submissions during a 50-day regulatory consultation over the Fall, based on commitments identified in the *Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario, 2020 report*. We are grateful for the feedback provided through this process.

Based on this feedback, the Minister of Education announced on February 26, 2021 that the government is moving forward with important regulatory changes to create more flexible options for families, as well as to improve health and safety and reduce administrative burden for licensees. Specifically, a range of changes are being made to reduce administrative requirements that are duplicative or redundant. In addition, enhanced health and safety measures are being added to strengthen health and safety standards (including injury prevention) for licensed child care, and to support the mitigation of the spread of COVID-19 in licensed child care settings. In many cases, these amendments will not require any changes to current practice and will be straightforward to implement.

In addition, the Minister announced amendments that are being made to allow specified authorized recreational and skill building programs to operate for more than three hours per day on instructional and non-instructional days during the school year. Further

information about the implementation of this program, including the application process, will be made available shortly. After the first phase of implementation, the ministry may consider broadening the exemption to additional authorized recreation providers.

The amendments will be filed on March 8, 2021 and will come into effect at that time. The amending regulations will be posted on the Source Law section of the e-Laws website shortly after they are filed, and once the regulations are consolidated (i.e. updated), they will be found at the following links:

[Ontario Regulation \(O.Reg.\) 137/15: General](#)

[Ontario Regulation 138/15: Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance](#)

[Ontario Regulation 221/11: Extended Day and Third Party Programs](#)

These immediate changes are only one piece of the important work the government is doing to strengthen the child care and early years system and we continue to work on the longer-term commitments identified in the [Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario, 2020 Report](#).

Thank you again for all of your work over the past year during these unprecedented and challenging times. I look forward to our continued partnership, as we work together towards improving and strengthening child care and early years programs and services in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

- c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
- Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
- Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
- Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
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