



PROVINCE RIGHT TO PRESS FOR A FAIR CHILD CARE DEAL

For Immediate Release

ONTARIO—December 8, 2021—Smaller communities and those in rural and northern areas have a lot at stake in Ontario's child care negotiations with the federal government. When the federal plan was first introduced, the focus seemed to be on supporting only certain types of spaces and centres. “That just doesn't work here in Ontario,” said Andrea Hannen, executive director of the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario, the industry association for the province's independent licensed child care centres.

“In many parts of the province, woman-owned small businesses provide the majority of, and sometimes the only, child care options available to families. If these spaces aren't part of the plan moving forward, all the families who rely on them lose out,” said Hannen. “This is one of the reasons why it's so critical for the provincial government to advocate for the right child care agreement for the people of Ontario so that all families can benefit from affordable and accessible child care.”

Being Canada's most populous province, and one of the fastest growing, makes it even more important to include centres and homes run as small businesses as part of the promised \$10/day program.

“Ontario families need an agreement that is flexible enough to allow existing centres run as small businesses to grow and new centres and homes run as small businesses to open,” said Hannen. “This is what will ensure that the child care sector's growth keeps pace with the demand for child care services. It's also the best way for the province to ensure that all families have access to a wide array of child care choices.”

“We're seeing fundamental shifts in the way people work and live. Families shouldn't be excluded from additional support just because they need more flexible child care options,” said Brenda Burns, board president of the Child Care Providers Resource Network (CCPRN), which represents independent home-based child care providers.

“Choice is really important for families,” said Hannen. “Simply increasing the number of licensed spaces in a small number of large, institutional providers doesn't bring the same benefits for families as having many different providers from which to choose. Different providers bring different approaches, more convenient locations, and more flexible options for working families. As one of Canada's most diverse provinces, Ontario really needs that level of diversity in its child care system. What we're hoping for in the province's negotiations with the federal government is a level playing field for all child care providers so that families can continue to enjoy choice in child care.”

“Sustainability is also key,” said Burns. “We're hoping the negotiations bring forward a long-term funding plan that brings benefits to all families, both now and into the future.”

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ADCO is the industry association for Ontario's independent licensed child care centres, both commercial and not-for-profit. Most are small businesses, owned and operated by women. For further information, please contact Andrea Hannen at admin@childcaretoday.ca or 905-687-7610.

Child Care Providers Resource Network of Ottawa-Carleton is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to providing training, support, information, and resources to individuals providing child care in their homes. CCPRN celebrates more than 40 years as a successful organization with a network reach of over 4500 providers and parents. For more information, please contact childcare@ccprn.com.