

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ontario Minister of Education

Cc: Holly Moran
ADM, Early Years and Child Care Division

January 3, 2022

Dear Minister Lecce,

We are writing to share our deep concern with the updated guidelines provided to the child care community on December 30, 2021. As you know, the home child care sector provides an essential service to Ontario families while contributing to Ontario's economy as small business owners. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, independent home child care providers have continuously stepped up to support families with flexible, low-ratio options while maintaining committed to the well-being and safety of the children in their care. These new guidelines leave Ontario's children, families, and child care providers more vulnerable than ever with increased isolation periods, limited access to testing, and a greater risk of financial instability. With absolutely no provincial support, the unlicensed sector is at an even greater disadvantage.

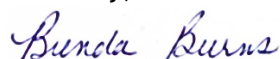
We ask the Ministry of Education to:

- Provide priority access to all children, families, and child care providers for publicly funded PCR tests and an emergency supply of Rapid Antigen tests.
- Include the unlicensed sector in the distribution of N95 masks and other PPE.
- Continue to publicly report COVID-19 cases in child care.
- Support all home child care providers and families faced with mandatory isolation periods with emergency financial support to offset loss of wages/child care fees.
- Include the unlicensed sector (through CCPRN) in all official communications relating to child care. Timely access to information is essential for maintaining best practice guidelines.

We understand that these are extremely challenging times and want to let you know that we are here to partner with the province and offer support in any way we can.

On behalf of CCPRN and our network of parents and home child care providers, we thank you for your continued commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of Ontario's children. We look forward to hearing your response to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Brenda Burns
Board President, Child Care Providers Resource Network

The Child Care Providers Resource Network of Ottawa-Carleton is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to providing training, support, and information to home-based child care providers. CCPRN celebrates more than 40 years as a successful organization and has a network reach of over 4500 providers and parents.