

Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Hon. Laurel C. Broten
Minister of Children and Youth Services
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
14th Floor
56 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S3

February 15, 2010

Dear Premier and Minister,

The Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women has applauded the Pascal Report on Early Learning and your government's program of full-day learning for four and five year olds.

However two concerns have been brought to our attention.

With the end of fiscal year, there will be an end to your four year funding plan for child care, leaving a deficit of \$63.5 million. This will affect the subsidies for approximately 7600 children across the province, having an almost intolerable impact on families struggling to work or return to school, on the child care system itself, as well as on Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

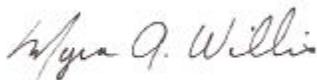
While we realize that this shortfall is due to a cancellation of a federal program, it Ontario's children that are at risk.

At the same time the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario has alerted the public of ramifications on childcare services of the full-day learning for four and five year olds. In order to deal with this problem, changes are being discussed to Day Nurseries Act. Will these proposed changes be presented to the public for consultation? Will funding be made available to assist the day care operators and parents to continue to make child care services viable?

Since the first report by Dr. Fraser Mustard and the Hon. Margaret McCain on early learning, there are has been real recognition of these very vital first years of life. Will the Ontario Government continue to support the excellent base that it has created over the years?

CFUW Ontario Council, with 57 clubs across Ontario, is non-partisan, non-sectarian and member funded, part of the National and International Federation of University Women.

Sincerely,



President, Ontario Council
Canadian Federation of University Women