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MEDIA RELEASE

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CHILD CARE OPERATORS PLEASED ONTARIO HAS FILLED THE SUBSIDY GAP

Toronto: The Association of Daycare Operators of Ontario (ADCO) is pleased that the McGuinty government has included an investment in child care in the March 2010 budget, but calls on the Province to further stabilize the sector as it adjusts to the introduction of full-day learning for four- and five-year-olds.

“Our members are very happy that Ontario came through with dollars to maintain regulated childcare for our most vulnerable citizens. While this was an excellent first step, we need government to add to this commitment as we implement full day learning for four and five year olds,” says Bonnie Walraven, ADCO Co-President.

Without further fiscal and legislative actions, Ontario’s licensed childcare providers face an ongoing structural deficit which will result in fewer spaces and higher fees.

“The provincial investment addresses the near-term crisis our members were facing; however with the removal of four- and five-year olds from licensed centres, our entire business model is in jeopardy. The older children have always cross-subsidized care for our youngest clients. Without them, we are looking at substantial increases in fees, which reflect the real cost of care,” says Kim Yeaman, ADCO Co-President.

With an eye toward making the implementation of the Early Learning Program (ELP) a success, ADCO and its members are calling upon government to enact strong fiscal supports and other measures, such as updates to the Day Nurseries Act, to help licensed centres make the transition to caring for younger children. These measures are sought to ensure the continuation of high quality, accessible, licensed child care in all Ontario communities.

The Association of Daycare Operators of Ontario is a non-profit organization that brings the owners and managers of independent licensed child care programs together to enhance child care quality and achieve common goals. Its members include both commercial and non-profit child care providers, centre- and home-based child care programs, nursery schools, preschools and school-age facilities. With more than 300 members, some of which operate programs in multiple locations, ADCO is the single largest child care association in the province.

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For more information, please contact the Association of Daycare Operators of Ontario (ADCO) Co-President Kim Yeaman at 705-431-2407 or simcoechildcare@rogers.com.