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Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario Eager to Work On Early Learning Implementation

Toronto: The Association of Daycare Operators of Ontario (ADCO) applauds the themes covered in the recently released report, ***With Our Best Future in Mind***, but has concerns that some of the details of its implementation may have unintended consequences for Ontario's licensed and regulated childcare providers. As an association, ADCO stands ready to support the McGuinty Government in developing strategies which will ensure that these implementation challenges are overcome.

"It's important to recognize that we're talking about a report: the full details of its implementation have yet to be worked out," notes ADCO President Bonnie Walraven. "In every community in Ontario, there are ADCO members who have worked hard for decades to ensure the provision of high quality care according to a play-based curriculum. They have a wealth of experience and expertise to contribute to the implementation process. Some of them are church groups, some are not-for-profits, and some are small owner-managed businesses. With the phase in of full-day learning for older children in partnership with the school system, licensed child care programs of all types would need associated supports and alterations to existing legislation to ensure their continued viability.

"It is our hope that government will work closely with ADCO through the development of its implementation program to ensure that spaces remain available in the community for children aged 0 to 3, says ADCO Vice President, Kim Yeaman. "By working closely with government over the coming months we can preserve and expand the spaces available to children aged 0 to 3 and build upon the wonderful talent we have already developed across the province. We have been encouraged by the reference in the Pascal report to the updating the Day Nurseries Act and the responsiveness of the McGuinty government, Minister Matthews in particular, in reaching out to us to find collaborative solutions which will meet the needs of the families we serve."

The Association of Daycare Operators of Ontario is a not-for-profit organization that brings the owners and managers of Ontario's licensed child care programs together to enhance child care quality and achieve common goals. Its members include licensed centre-based programs, home child care agencies, nursery schools, preschools and before- and after-school programs. With nearly 400 members, including both commercial and not-for-profit childcare programs, some of which operate in multiple locations, ADCO is the largest independent child care association in Ontario. ADCO receives no government funding.

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