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## **NEW NDP BILL WOULD MAKE LIFE TOUGHER FOR WORKING FAMILIES, WOMEN & NEWCOMERS**

*For Immediate Release*

ONTARIO- March 1, 2017—Licensed child care providers and Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) across Ontario are deeply disappointed by a new NDP bill that proposes to amend the Child Care and Early Years Act of 2014. If passed, Bill 98 would stop families in receipt of fee subsidy from attending any new licensed child care program, unless that program is incorporated as a not-for-profit entity.

“Licensed child care centres that are run as businesses account for roughly 25% of all of Ontario’s licensed child care facilities and most of the licensed centres that offer care outside of traditional hours,” says Andrea Hannen, Operations Manager with the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO). “If making licensed child care more accessible and affordable is important, excluding these licensed centres from serving families in receipt of fee subsidy doesn’t make sense.”

“There are a lot of misconceptions about how Ontario’s licensed child care sector actually works,” says Hannen, whose association includes both centres run as businesses and those run as not-for-profit corporations. “Making sweeping generalizations that link child care quality to corporation type is inappropriate in the Ontario context. All licensed child care programs in Ontario are subject to the same regulations, and the same Provincial licensing and inspection requirements.”

“Within our association, when we look at the centres that are run as businesses, the term *enlightened entrepreneurship* comes to mind,” says Hannen. “Roughly half of them are owned and operated by RECEs. Well over half are owned and operated by women. Their centres serve families from a wide variety of backgrounds and income levels, and often have done so for generations. These are successful business owners who started small, put children’s well-being first, and who have kept evolving to meet community needs.”

“When we look at the next generation of individuals who hope to follow in their footsteps, we often see newcomers to Canada with advanced educational credentials from their countries of origin, new RECE grads, and young parents seeking to create the kinds of services they wish they could find for their own children,” explains Hannen. “These are people who are excited about the prospect of running their own businesses. They’re willing to invest their savings and are committed to doing things by the rules. They’re enthusiastic about finding new and better ways to serve Ontario families. Don’t these individuals deserve the same range of opportunities as the many enlightened entrepreneurs who came before them?”

ADCO believes the Government can best achieve its goals of a more responsive child care system and 100,000 new licensed spaces by rejecting outdated, ideologically driven stereotypes and encouraging the growth of all types of licensed centres, including those run as businesses.

*For further information on the work done by the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario, please visit <http://www.adco-o.on.ca/>.*

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