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## LICENSED DAY CARE OPERATORS SAY PROVINCIAL BUDGET IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

*For Immediate Release*

ONTARIO—April 18, 2019—The owner/operators of Ontario’s independent licensed child care centres say parents are excited about the Province’s new Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses (CARE) tax credit. “Our members are reporting a positive response from parents about the new CARE tax credit,” says Andrea Hannen, Executive Director of the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO). ADCO represents independent licensed centres, both commercial and not-for-profit. Independent licensed centres account for roughly a third of Ontario’s licensed child care spaces.

“For many of the families currently enrolled at ADCO member centres, the new tax credit offers some cost relief,” says Hannen, “but we’re also hearing that families who haven’t used licensed care before are now contacting centres to arrange tours and get their children enrolled. Having new options for high quality, licensed care is great news for families.”

That wasn’t the only good news in last week’s budget. “Our members were also pleased to see the Province commit to ongoing red tape reduction efforts,” says Hannen. In addition to being tightly regulated and regularly inspected by the Provincial Ministry of Education, licensed child care centres in Ontario are subject to a host of arbitrary financial audit and paperwork requirements which are determined by individual municipalities. These requirements can add tens of thousands of dollars to a child care centre’s annual expenses, but do nothing to support child care quality. “Reducing some of this red tape is another step to making licensed care more affordable for families,” says Hannen.

“Overall, the recent Budget is good news for families and for licensed child care programs. The Government took a thoughtful approach, introducing more cost relief for families, while maintaining the supports that are most important to the sector, such as the Provincial Wage Enhancement (PWE).” The PWE expands the career options for Early Childhood Educators. It enables them to work in a variety of child care settings, including centres run as small businesses or as not-for-profits run by churches or parent co-ops that may not be able to pay as much as public sector institutions can.

“ADCO appreciates the many challenges the Ministers of Finance and Education faced as they sought to expand the options for families and stabilize the licensed child care sector.” says Hannen. “We look forward to working with them as they consult with stakeholders on other issues that are important to our members and the families they serve.”

*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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