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LICENSED DAY CARE OPERATORS HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND PROVINCIAL FUNDING CHANGES

For Immediate Release

ONTARIO—May 1, 2019—Ontario’s independent licensed child care centres are concerned that misinformation about changes to Provincial funding for child care is causing some parents unnecessary stress. Yesterday, the Minister of Education confirmed that the Province had opted not to continue the Fee Stabilization Support funding stream introduced by the Wynne government in the weeks leading up to last June’s provincial election.

“The first thing for families to understand is that not every licensed child care centre received support through this program,” explains 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 that are not run by any government-run entity such as a municipality or school board, or by any national multi-service agency such as a YMCA. Independent licensed centres account for roughly a third of Ontario’s licensed child care spaces.

“From what we can tell, the \$50 million in Fee Stabilization Support was simply handed to municipal governments, which then were left to develop their own systems for administering it,” says Hannen. “Not only was the funding stream poorly designed by the Province, in many cases, it was extremely poorly delivered by the municipalities involved. So much so that many licensed child care programs simply chose not to participate, because the administrative and reporting requirements were so burdensome.”

“It’s important to put this news in the context of the recent Provincial budget announcement about the CARE tax credit. The CARE tax credit is great news for families. It’s a simpler, more child-centred approach to funding that helps almost every family with young children. It gives parents more choices, with very little added administrative cost, and no municipal red tape.”

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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