



1-188 Bunting Road
St. Catharines, ON L2M 3Y1
1.800.567.7075
admin@adco-o.on.ca

LICENSED DAY CARE OPERATORS SEE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUNICIPAL SAVINGS

For Immediate Release

ONTARIO—May 3, 2019—Ontario’s independent licensed child care centres are optimistic about the direction of Provincial child care policy changes, but are concerned that misinformation about these changes is causing some parents unnecessary stress.

Most Provincial investments in licensed child care services in Ontario are delivered through the province’s 47 upper-tier municipalities. The Ford government’s recent efforts to achieve greater accountability for how municipalities spend this money, including changes to cost-sharing arrangements, have been the target of criticism by a number of high-profile municipal officials.

“The reaction by some municipal officials has been totally over the top,” says Andrea Hannen, Executive Director of the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario. “It’s like they want families to start panicking. The fact of the matter is there has been a lot of waste in the system for a very, very long time. The Minister of Education is quite right when she says that the changes don’t need to result in service cuts to Ontario families,” says Hannen.

There are many obvious opportunities for savings, including:

- Eliminating municipal quality assurance programs for child care. These programs duplicate Provincial regulatory and licensing standards, driving up operating costs for all licensed centres and fees for all families.
- Ending municipal discrimination against families who wish to enroll their children in Provincially licensed centres run as small businesses. Many municipalities prohibit families in receipt of fee subsidy from accessing the services of the services of commercial centres, even when these services cost less and are located closer to the family’s home.
- Establishing standardized province-wide systems for families to apply for fee subsidy and for Provincially licensed centres to apply to serve these families. Right now, every municipality in Ontario has their own paperwork processes for these functions, causing unnecessary confusion for parents and costs for centres.

“Congratulations to the Minister of Education and the Ford government for having the courage to begin addressing these issues,” says Hannen. “Ontario needs to move from a government-centered to a child-centered system of licensed care. These are some of the necessary first steps.”

ADCO is the industry association for Ontario’s independent licensed child care programs, both commercial and not-for-profit. Independent licensed child care programs are those that are not run by public sector entities such as municipalities or school boards, or affiliated with national multi-service agencies such as YMCAs.

-30-

For further information, please contact:
Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO)
admin@adco-o.on.ca or 1-800-567-7075