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## CHILD CARE CENTRES CALL PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR PARKING BARRIERS A GOOD FIRST STEP

For Immediate Release

**December 8, 2025**-- The Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO) wishes to thank the Province of Ontario for investing \$20 million to launch the Liam Riazati Memorial Fund. Liam lost his life in a tragic accident in September of this year, when a car crashed into the day care centre he was attending. "It is our sincere hope that the creation of this fund will help provide Liam's family with some peace of mind by helping prevent similar tragedies in the future," said Andrea Hennen, executive director of the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO).

"Child care centres very much want to ensure safety for the families they serve, but since the start of the federal \$10-a-day child care program, their budgets are tighter than ever before and centres participating in the program have very little say over the kinds of expenses they can incur," say Hennen. "A lot of them wanted to make changes to their parking areas, but were struggling with how to afford it. We're pleased that the Province has heard ADCO and others voice these concerns and has taken the first step by making funding for concrete barriers available."

While the promised funds will help in some instances, Hennen notes that some centres are already expressing reservations about the Province's pledge to revisit the regulations governing licensed child care facilities. "The reality is that most of the vehicular risks to licensed child care centres lie well beyond the scope of the Ministry of Education. Most landlords are not regulated by the Ministry of Education, so it's important to recognize that this isn't an issue that can be resolved by putting new regulations on licensed child care centres. We're really talking about broader municipal planning, traffic calming and by-laws issues here. Children are part of the equation in a variety of businesses, from restaurants to hair salons, dental offices and so forth. It is not unreasonable for parents who have their children with them in these settings to expect safety there as well."

In 2022, the Hamilton Spectator [reported](#) that there were 176 instances of vehicles crashing into buildings in the GTA in the preceding four years—the equivalent of nearly one per week. Some insurers are [reporting](#) that the number of vehicles crashing into buildings has increased dramatically since.

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*Established in 1981, ADCO is the industry association for Ontario's independent licensed child care centres, both commercial and not-for-profit. Independent licensed child care centres are those that are not run by public sector entities such as municipalities or school boards, or by large multi-service agencies such as YMCAs. Most are small businesses, owned and operated by women. For further information, please contact: the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO) at [admin@adco-o.on.ca](mailto:admin@adco-o.on.ca) or Andrea Hennen at 1-877-685-4288, ext. 1.*