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CHILD CARE OPERATORS SUPPORT PROVINCE'S EFFORTS TO GET A FAIR DEAL FOR ONTARIO

For Immediate Release

ONTARIO—December 15, 2021—Across Ontario, independent child care operators, both centre and home-based are looking toward the future. They recognize how complex and diverse Ontario's child care system is and the wide range of options it offers Ontario families. They also stand firmly behind Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce, as he continues to press for a fair deal that increases child care affordability and offers flexibility and choice for all Ontario families. This support was evident in [last week's joint statement from the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario \(ADCO\) and the Child Care Provider's Resource Network \(CCPRN\)](#).

"Choice is really important for families," said Andrea Hannen, ADCO's executive director. "Simply increasing the number of licensed spaces in a small number of large, institutional providers doesn't bring the same benefits for families as having many different providers from which to choose. What we're hoping for in the province's negotiations with the federal government is a level playing field for all child care providers so that Ontario families can continue to enjoy choice and flexibility in child care."

As child care becomes more affordable for families, Ontario is going to need more of it. Some of the provinces that signed deals with the federal government early on are encountering human resource challenges. If Ontario is to avoid such challenges, it will need to find new ways of engaging, retaining and continually expanding its child care workforce. Wages, benefits and working conditions are part of the equation, but not the full story. Finding ways to increase career satisfaction for child care professionals through things like reducing paperwork and making it easier to transition from working in a centre to owning that centre are also important.

"A big factor in job satisfaction is finding a centre and a work family that is a good fit for you," says Karen Eilersen, RECE and owner of Discovery Child Care in Barrie. "Having a wide variety of work settings in which to pursue your career is really key. Just as we say not every child care centre is right for every child, not every child care centre is right for every child care professional."

These and other issues are presented in [ADCO's new Discussion Paper on Human Resource Challenges in Child Care](#). The discussion paper provides practical starting points for ensuring human resource challenges don't impede the roll-out of the anticipated \$10/day child care program. The approaches outlined in the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario paper have been endorsed by the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators and the Ontario Federation of Independent Schools. All three organizations are united in their support for the Province's efforts to get a fair child care deal for all Ontario families.

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ADCO is the industry association for Ontario's independent licensed child care centres, both commercial and not-for-profit. Most are small businesses, owned and operated by women. For further information, please contact Andrea Hannen at admin@childcaretoday.ca or 1-877-685-4288, ext. 1.