



--JOINT STATEMENT ON CHILD CARE SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS--

October 1, 2024

It has come to our attention that during the month of October, some of Ontario's licensed child care operators may be planning service interruptions to families as part of a broader awareness campaign regarding certain aspects of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program (CWELCC) and how it is being implemented in Ontario. The Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO), the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators (CCMA) and the Ontario Federation of Independent Schools (OFIS) do not support such service interruptions.

ADCO, CCMA and OFIS each support the goals of expanding access to licensed child care and making it more affordable for families, while at the same time achieving strong value for any taxpayer funds involved. The three organizations have been advocating toward these ends since the national child care program was first formally introduced in the 2021 federal budget.

We recognize that the national program remains deeply flawed. Its implementation has resulted in a system that excludes the majority of families with children in the age group it is designed to serve, that artificially limits the country's supply of licensed child care and that suppresses compensation levels for qualified educators. Addressing these issues relies on access to credible, independent data about how the national child care program is performing for Canadians. To this end, ADCO, CCMA and OFIS successfully advocated for the Auditor General of Canada to review the program. The Auditor General's work is currently underway. ADCO, CCMA and OFIS will continue to voice our members' concerns about the national child care program in strategic and legitimate ways, so that they can keep serving the families and children who rely on them.

While we appreciate the concerns of the child care facilities that may be involved in the service interruptions, and in many cases share them, we reject the premise that inconveniencing hardworking families is necessary for effective advocacy in this regard.