



Minister

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August 18, 2010

Ms. Tracy Saarikoski
President
Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
206 – 489 College Street
Toronto ON M6G 1A5

Dear Ms Saarikoski,

Thank you for your letter about the closure of college-operated childcare centres at some of Ontario's publicly funded colleges. As you may know, the operation of childcare centres at the colleges is an operational issue for the board of governors at each college.

Our government has made investing in postsecondary education a priority. With our five-year Open Ontario plan, we will continue to invest in postsecondary education, skills training and jobs programs in order to provide Ontarians with the knowledge and skills needed to compete in the new knowledge-based economy. In 2009/10, our government allocated \$1.35 billion in operating grants to the college sector, representing a 64.2 percent increase over college transfer payments in 2002/03. By allocating a further \$53.3 million through the Facilities Renewal and the College Equipment and Renewal funds, we are continuing to invest in our colleges' infrastructure.

I recognize that the childcare centres also serve as laboratories for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs. However, college childcare centres are not the only location where students may gain practical experience with children. If the childcare centre closures impacted ECE program delivery, then they would be a matter for discussion by the college boards of governors.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Milloy".

John Milloy
Minister