



Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Fédération des enseignantes et des enseignants de l'élémentaire de l'Ontario
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February 9, 2010

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

On behalf of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, I am writing to urge the provincial government to step in to address the growing crisis in the child care sector.

ETFO understands that the government is facing a deficit of \$24.7 billion and that you have resisted targeting public sector compensation for restraint measures. I commend your government for not repeating the mistakes of previous governments on that score. We acknowledge the ongoing funding support for education.

ETFO also understands that, for the past number of years, Ontario has relied on federal funding to support the expansion of regulated child care and that this funding expires at the end of March 2010. The government has known for some time that the federal funding would end and that the current federal government is not predisposed to supporting regulated child care in any way.

Like our investment in public education, support for child care is key to the healthy development of young children and to the ability of parents to work, retrain, or attend school. A dramatic loss of child care spaces will work against economic recovery and leave thousands of children without the early childhood education and care they require to thrive and succeed. After-school child care programs are also essential to ensuring safe and secure environments for older children.

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The Hon. Dalton McGuinty

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ETFO will continue to press the federal government to restore funding for child care. In the meantime, Ontario must live up to your government's 2003 commitment to restore the \$130 million in child care funding cut by the previous government.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hammond', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sam Hammond,
President

SH:VM

Copy The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance
 The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services
 The Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education
 Sylvia Jones, MPP
 Andrea Horwath, Leader, the Ontario NDP
 Andrea Calver, Coordinator, the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care