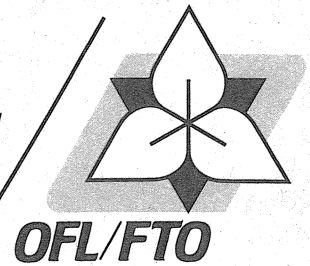


February 25, 2010

SID RYAN
President
MARIE KELLY
Secretary - Treasurer
TERRY DOWNEY
Executive Vice-President



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

Dear Premier McGuinty:

I am writing to ask you to take immediate action and address the growing funding crisis in the child care sector.

Women and their families need support in these troubled times, they need the support of our public services and access to good jobs in both the public and private sectors of the economy.

In this time of economic upheaval, child care, more than any other public investment, is critical. In good times or bad, child care is good for the economy, but this is especially true when times are bad. Child care gives families the ability to weather the storm while keeping jobs, looking for new work, or attending community colleges and universities and participating in re-training. The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) commissioned a study by The Centre for Spatial Economics was released on February 3, 2010. The study shows that the elimination of \$63.5 million in child care funding would cause thousands of jobs to be lost and leave 7,600 children from low income families without child care.

The report highlights that there is a lot more at stake than lost child care spaces, a \$63.5 million cut to subsidized child care would result in a \$148.3 million drop in Ontario's GDP through job losses and increased demand for welfare. The losses far outweigh Ontario's contribution to child care subsidies, contributions that are a lifeline for vulnerable children and their families.

Our members recognize and welcome your government's commitment to early learning and care for 4 and 5 year olds within the public school system. However, as we move forward on creating this system you cannot allow parents to lose child care options for younger children.

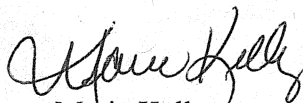
If your government does not continue providing the \$63.5 million in funding for community/municipal based child care, it will mean a loss of subsidized child care spaces, the loss of child care jobs and even closure of child care centers. The ripple effect of those cuts will lead to a catastrophic collapse of our fragile child care system. The OFL adds our voice to those of parents and child care advocates across Ontario in calling on you, Premier McGuinty, and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan to:



- ensure \$63.5 million in child care funding is on-going;
- ensure that the Provincial government provides sufficient funding to maintain existing levels of service, and recognize the cost of living and other legitimate increases in operating costs;
- provide all necessary tools to support the transition to an Early Learning Program and ensure the child care system remains stable and sustainable.

While the OFL will continue to press the Federal government to restore child care funding, it does not mean that your government does not have its own obligations to the children of Ontario. Ontario's working families, and our children, rely on you and your government to do the right thing. Your government must live up to your 2003 commitment to restore the child care funding cut by the previous government. Abandonment of our children is simply not acceptable; funding, support and solutions are what Ontarians are looking for.

Yours truly,



Marie Kelly
Secretary Treasurer

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