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**Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario**

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**Peel Region votes to close its child care centres**

The Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO) is disappointed by today’s decision by the Region of Peel Council to close its 12 directly operated child care centres. Although the Region has vowed to use some of the estimated $ 12 million saved to increase wage subsidies in less-costly non-profit and commercial centres, this move will serve to decrease ECE compensation in the Region of Peel.

One of the principal reasons the non-municipal centres are less-costly is because the salaries they offer are lower than in city run centres. The wage subsidy promised will not bring the salaries of ECEs in these centres on par with the Region’s ECE salary grid, otherwise there would be no savings. This is another case of government outsourcing to a lower wage employer.

Rachel Langford, president of the AECEO noted that “Multiple studies over the last two decades show that there is a link between early childhood educator wages, staff stability and the quality of service. Research shows that the surest way to improve program quality is to recognize early childhood educators as professionals and ensure that they are properly compensated.”

The AECEO calls on the Region of Peel to ensure that wage subsidies increase to allow all ECEs in Peel to receive the salary that the city employed ECEs were receiving.

<http://www.mississauga.com/news/article/1501510--daycares-on-chopping-block>

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1255772--peel-region-daycares-on-the-chopping-block-in-thursday-vote>

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