Letter to the Editor, Toronto Star, January 27, 2014

The Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO) strongly supports the concerns about proposed regulatory changes raised in Laurie Monsebraaten’s article “Ontario plan puts child care quality at risk, experts warn” (January 24, 2014).

The 2007 Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources identified properly paid, registered and committed educators as one of the four critical “building blocks” for creating a province-wide system of quality child care services. The proposed regulations do not increase the number of qualified RECEs in staff-child ratios thus the government’s commitment to improving quality cannot be realized. The opportunity to enhance quality by implementing the research and evidence on the need to have individuals with the knowledge, training and education, who can translate all of this research into practice, has not been addressed.

Registered Early Childhood Educators in Ontario are a committed workforce who want a modernized child care system and are ready to work with the Ministry of Education in meeting this goal. Indeed, the modernization of child care in Ontario will be driven on the ground by dedicated Early Childhood Educators.

Signed Dr. Rachel Langford, President

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