



**Catherine Fife**  
MPP Waterloo

**Laura Mae Lindo**  
MPP Kitchener Centre

Hon. Stephen Lecce, MPP  
Minister of Education  
5th Floor, 438 University Ave  
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

**RE: Reopening Childcare**

June 17, 2020

Dear Minister Lecce,

On June 9<sup>th</sup> you announced the reopening of childcare centres – since then we have been inundated with concerns from parents and childcare providers who can see clearly that your “plan” is set up to fail.

Parents in Kitchener-Waterloo already pay some of the highest fees in the country for childcare, while their caregivers and Early Childhood Educators, remain grossly underpaid. Your government has consistently failed to support children and their parents, a failure that disproportionately impacts women. On behalf of our constituents, we are asking you to make immediate changes to ensure childcare centres can re-open safely.

These are our requests:

- Provide new stabilization funding for childcare to cover parent fees for childcare spaces that must remain closed during the phased re-opening
- Confirm details of the announced support to cover extra operating costs for staff who will have lower ratios, be required to clean and prep more, monitor health and safety protocols, and increase communication with families. Confirm that this will be new money that will not come from existing funding for childcare providers
- Guarantee that no essential workers currently receiving emergency child care will lose child care provision when the emergency childcare program ends
- Work with federal counterparts to ensure childcare centres can continue to receive the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) during the phased re-opening

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This has been an incredibly difficult time for Ontarians that has – at times – been exacerbated by the inadequate supports your government has offered. Your announcement about reopening childcare centres with three days' notice added to the stresses of parents and operators. Parents were already anxious about putting their children at risk, losing their spot, or being forced to pay increased fees and operators were provided with little information about their role.

We urge you to implement our requests and do more to ensure workers are supported and kids are safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Fife".

Catherine Fife, MPP  
Waterloo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Mae Lindo".

Laura Mae Lindo, MPP  
Kitchener Centre

C: Doly Begum, MPP Scarborough Southwest, Official Opposition Critic, Early Learning and Childcare

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