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Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
Coalition ontarienne pour de meilleurs service éducatifs à l'enfance

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Dr. Charles Pascal
Early Learning Advisor

Sent by fax to: 416-865-3619

Dear Dr. Pascal,

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OSBCC) and Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario are sponsors of Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day¹. This year, we will be celebrating our 9th annual day recognizing the education, skills and commitment of child care workers and ECE's throughout Ontario.

The Appreciation Day is a unique opportunity for municipalities, boards of directors, parents and the community to recognize the outstanding contribution made by child care staff and ECE's to children, families and our economy.

Last year, we began an annual award recognizing "Excellence in Advocacy". OCBCC and CUPE Ontario were proud to give our inaugural award to Mme. Pauline Marois. Ten years ago, Mme. Marois led a transformational program to provide access to universal and affordable early learning and child care for children and families in Quebec. Over the last ten years, we have seen the incredible results of her vision. For example, child poverty rates have declined by 50%, women's employment has risen dramatically, school test scores have gone from among the lowest to the highest in Canada and more families in Quebec are deciding to have children.

Her family-friendly policies mean that Quebec is one of the best places in Canada to raise a family.

We are proud to advise you that we have decided to name you the recipient of our "Excellence in Advocacy" award which will be awarded to you at a breakfast on October 21.

We believe that the vision from your recent report "With Our Best Future In Mind" is as transformative as the vision of Mme. Marois. If fully implemented Ontario will dramatically improve the services available to all children from infancy to 12 years old.

¹ Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day is sponsored by: CUPE Ontario, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, National Union of Public and General Employees, Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Canadian Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Labour

For Ontario's youngest children, your holistic vision of Best Start Child and Family Centres will combine our community resources to better serve children and families.

For 4 and 5 year old children, your vision of full-day learning program will provide quality early learning and flexibility for parents.

For children from 6 to 12 years, your vision of after-school and summer programs will provide much needed learning, supervision and recreation.

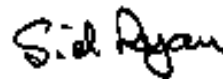
Your report calls on all of us to be partners in creating a new system for all children in Ontario. You call on school boards to become community hubs, municipalities to create service plans that meet the needs of local communities and early learning and child care programs to create new integrated governance structures to better serve families. We support these goals.

In addition, your report recognizes the skills, dedication and education of Early Childhood Educators. Your recognition is an important step forward for awareness of the incredible work of child care staff across the Province. You recognize that early childhood educators are a crucial part of a high quality early learning and child care system. Building awareness of the contribution of child care staff is why we started "Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day" nine years ago. Your proposal for salaries for ECE's working in the public school system represents a significant increase in wages. We have always argued that raising wages of hard-working child care staff is essential to recognizing the value of the work and ensuring that child care staff have a decent standard of living.

Thank you for all your work on behalf of children and families in Ontario.



Tracy Saarikoski
President
OCBCC



Patrick (Sid) Ryan
President
CUPE Ontario

On behalf of the Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day Organizing Committee