



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9

MAY 24 2017

Councillor James Pasternak
Chair
Community Development and Recreation Committee
City of Toronto
City Hall
A22-100 Queen Street W
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Pasternak:

I am responding to a letter from Toronto's Council Secretariat Support, which the Office of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, forwarded to me on April 5, 2017. Ms. Marian Toft wrote concerning the adoption of the Community Development and Recreation Committee's Item 15.2, Growing Toronto's Licensed Child Care System.

Our government recognizes the role of municipalities in providing child care services to Canadians in Ontario. We have also taken note of the report issued by the City of Toronto's Children's Services titled Toronto's Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy For Children under 4, 2017-2026."

Our government also recognizes that Canadians deserve the opportunity to raise their families the way they want, but far too many do not have access to the high-quality, affordable child care they need. This is why our government announced an investment of \$7.5 billion over 11 years to create more high-quality affordable child care spaces across the country. It is also working with the provinces and territories to develop a new Framework on Early Learning and Child Care.

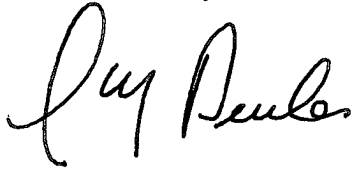
In addition, a distinct Indigenous Framework on Early Learning and Child Care will be created in cooperation with Indigenous partners. This framework will reflect the unique cultures and needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children across Canada.

As part of the \$7.5 billion investment, our government will also be supporting innovative practices in early learning and child care and address data gaps to better understand child care in Canada and track progress. The \$195 million investment in research and innovation funding will give the Government an opportunity to work closely with partners, including the provinces and territories, stakeholders and advocates.

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In the coming months, our government will continue to work closely with provincial and territorial governments as well as Indigenous peoples on early learning and child care, to enable children to receive the best possible start in life and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JY Duclos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development