

To the City Clerk:

I would like to submit a written submission to the Economic and Community Committee on November 12, 2020 to speak on item 2020 [EC17.12](#) - Response to Proposed Regulations under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

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To the Economic and Community Committee, thank you for reviewing Toronto's response to proposed regulations under the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA). My name is **Oshida Honarbakhsh** and I am the **Centre Manager at North York Little Prints Daycare. We have been in the community since 1995 offering innovative programming directed by the children's interests by our diverse and caring staff. Children explore with toys, art, sensory and play materials for maximum fun and learning in numeracy, literacy, creative thinking and motor skills. From our annual Strawberry Socials, Grandparents Day and Harvest Fest are just some of the ways we include the community. We offer care to upwards of 75 families from infant care to preschool care.**

Our child care centre and the community we work with are highly concerned by the provincial government's proposed regulatory changes to the CCEYA. We know the value that quality early learning and child care programs provide in strengthening our community and supporting the Torontonians children and families who depend on our care.

The proposed changes to staff qualifications sets a precedent for future deregulation of licensed child care. **This would have a great impact on children's learning, development and well-being. The larger group sizes would not allow educators to provide the individual attention to children.** The provincial government is proposing that these changes will create more access to child care for families. Packing younger children into larger groups with fewer staff doesn't create access; expanding, publicly-funding and sustaining more non-profit child care programs with enhanced ratios and affordable fees can.

The proposed changes to staff qualifications sets a precedent for future deregulation of licensed child care. This would have a great impact on children's learning, development and well-being. The larger group sizes would not allow educators to provide the individual attention to children. This, in combination with larger groups of children and fewer adults will ultimately lead to accidents and serious occurrences. In same age groups, specifically kindergarten and school age, this would potentially mean that classrooms could have no qualified staff. Lessening qualifications will not help with recruitment and retention issues faced by our sector. There are already measures in place for child care directors to get approval from the Ministry of Education and our Service Managers to have non- Early Childhood Educators working in child care

programs. There is no need to lessen staff qualifications. Instead, the provincial government needs to cooperate with the federal and municipal government to build a publicly-funded, universal child care system that values Early Childhood Educators through decent work and compensation.

The unlicensed child care registry is misleading for families and ultimately dangerous. This proposed registry would be voluntary and without oversight or accountability, all while giving families the false sense of security that the registry is vetted, regulated, and run by qualified educators. This has been proposed in the past and was abandoned after several deaths of young children, here in Toronto, in unlicensed child care. This unlicensed registry would not provide families with access to child care, it would only give false validation to unlicensed, unregulated child care.

As a non-profit child care program, our priority is providing the best possible care and learning experiences for Toronto's youngest and most vulnerable citizens. We focus on being leaders who are actively involved in our community and in supporting the needs of the families we work with. These proposed changes do not meet the needs of the community and in many ways would be dangerous for children. We ask that you too, as our decision makers, oppose these regulatory changes in your response to the provincial government.

Thank you for championing for quality, accessible, affordable child care in Toronto. We look forward to working with you on building a better child care system for Torontonians.

Sincerely,

Oshida Honarbakhsh
North York Little Prints Daycare
A Community of Families Growing Together