

COPY

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Chair's Office, TDSB

AUG 30 2012

August 22, 2012

Mr. Chris Bolton
Chair
Toronto District School Board
5th Floor, 5050 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M2N 5N8

Dear Mr. Bolton,

Thank you for sharing the letter from Gerri Gershon and Anne Farrell, Co-Chairs of the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) Early Years Advisory Committee, highlighting the Committee's concerns about the impacts of full-day kindergarten (FDK) on child care programs located in TDSB schools.

Our government recognizes how important it is for Ontario's families to have access to a safe, affordable, high quality early learning and care system for children. As Minister, I am committed to working with partners to modernize Ontario's child care system.

On April 20, 2012, our government announced that, as part of the 2012 Budget, Ontario will provide assistance to child care operators as we move towards full implementation of FDK in 2014/15. The total fiscal impact of this action is \$90 million in 2012/13, \$68 million in 2013/14, and \$84 million in 2014/15. With this latest investment, provincial funding for child care has increased from \$532.4 million to more than \$1 billion annually, an increase of 90 percent since 2003.

On June 27, we announced the launch of a series of discussions and engagement activities regarding the modernization of child care in Ontario. The discussion paper "*Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together*" outlines the government's long-term vision for child care and seeks feedback on targeted medium-term objectives that will help achieve that vision over the next three years. Many of the proposed areas for action in the medium-term, including the operating funding formula, capital priorities, quality programs, modernizing the legislative and regulatory framework and supporting accountability and capacity building, directly address the issues raised in your letter and frame the basis for positive action going forward.

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The paper will be available until September 24, 2012 on Ontario's Regulatory Registry website www.ontariocanada.com/registry and on the ministry's website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>.

We appreciate the issues raised in the advisory committee correspondence and I encourage Ms. Gershon, Ms. Farrell and you to read the discussion paper and submit your input. The TDSB is an important ministry partner and we look forward to continued collaboration and conversation as we work on child care modernization.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurel Broten".

Laurel Broten
Minister