



Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Association of Canadian Early Learning Programs (ACE), I am reaching out to ask for your support in adopting new policies that will address operational and accessibility challenges facing parents and child care operators in Ontario.

ACE National represents operators supporting more than 163,000 licensed child care spaces across Canada. Our members include licensed centres, home child care providers, multi-site operators, independent operators, educators, and sector leaders who work within the realities of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system every day, and remain deeply committed to the shared goal of building an affordable, accessible, and sustainable child care system for families across Ontario and Canada.

Affordable child care matters deeply to families, communities, operators, and educators alike. At a time when Ontario families continue to face significant affordability pressures, lower child care fees have provided meaningful relief for many parents.

However, families cannot benefit from affordability if they cannot access licensed care in their communities. Across Ontario, operators are increasingly raising concerns about staffing shortages, growing waitlists, rising operational costs, administrative burden, and mounting pressure on licensed capacity.

We believe the next phase of CWELCC presents an important opportunity for the Ontario government and sector partners to work collaboratively toward a system that not only improves affordability but also strengthens long-term access, workforce stability, and operational sustainability for families across Ontario.

Recently, ACE released [**“A Structurally Sustainable Framework for CWELCC \(2027–2031\)”**](#) — a 10-point plan focused on preserving affordability, improving access, reducing administrative complexity, stabilizing the workforce, and protecting licensed child care spaces across the province.

This solutions-focused framework is designed to work within the province’s fiscal realities, while maintaining affordable child care in Ontario, and expanding access for parents across the province.

Key recommendations include:

- protecting affordability while targeting support where it is needed most
- reducing administrative complexity for operators and municipalities

- stabilizing and retaining the child care workforce
- preserving existing licensed child care spaces before additional capacity is lost
- improving parent access and choice across communities
- expanding under-5 access through practical operational reforms
- focusing future growth on demonstrated regional need

These proposals are centred on outcomes for children and families.

We believe **Ontario has an opportunity to lead by building a child care system that is not only affordable, but also accessible, sustainable, and operationally realistic for the future.** Achieving this will require a shift in how CWELCC is currently delivered, and active advocacy from the province to the federal government to design a program that is fit for purpose for families and operators in Ontario.

Given the importance of these issues to families and communities across Ontario, we would respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you and/or members of your team to discuss the framework in greater detail.

Specifically, we would welcome the opportunity to:

- share insights from operators and educators working within CWELCC across Ontario
- discuss the realities families are experiencing in local communities
- answer questions regarding the operational challenges facing the sector
- explore practical, solutions-focused next steps that can strengthen access, affordability, and long-term sustainability for children and families in Etobicoke North

ACE is committed to being a constructive and collaborative sector partner as Ontario prepares for the next phase of CWELCC.

The full framework can be viewed here:

https://static.showit.co/file/FgRXkq9OD9qTa02gmGaqVw/272388/ace_national_sustainability_framework_-_mar_2026.pdf

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to supporting children and families in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Krystal Churcher
Chair, Association of Canadian Early Learning Programs

Debbie Cunha
Ontario Representative, Association of Canadian Early Learning Programs