**Sample letter from parent**

**Date**

Dear Minister,

My name is **(insert name)** and I am a concerned member of the Guelph community. My child receives care from an independent (private) child care provider that is currently in the process of licensing and I believe that the Canada-wide child care plan is not meeting the needs of the community by denying new childcare centres funding that supports them in joining the CWELCC program. Our centre, Mother Earth Childcare Centre has been in startup for over a year and are finally approaching opening. They have tried with all available options to join the CWELCC program, but have been denied. The COunty of Wellington has confirmed that MECC can not claim any 2022 expenses for the CWELCC start up funding. Without claiming 2022 expenses, MECC can not show “financial viability” to join the CWELCC program.

**Share your personal story—talk about your relationship with your caregiver and about the quality of care provided to your child. Why is private child care best for you and your child? How would your centres enrollment in the CWELCC benefit your family? Do you see the CWELCC as a long term program that can be supported for the foreseeable future?**

We have seen first hand how the CWELCC system has made it significantly harder for the small, female owner business to startup and be sustainable for the future without more support. After months of delays and hardship, they will be opening with full fees that will be well above the CWELCC promise to families. With denial from the CWELCC, families on the waitlist may be offered a space in the coming months and may have to turn it down due to affordability. Meaning families like mine may have waited on the waitlist for over a year, just to have a space offered that is well beyond our reach. As taxpayers and parents, we know we deserve better. We deserve a truly “Canada-Wide” program that covers all childcare centres new, current and those in the future.

Ontario must advocate for an inclusive plan that will support all families in choosing the best child care option to meet their needs. As stated by the Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario, a nation-wide plan that excludes private child care operators will limit parents' choices, limit child opportunities for other approaches to learning, discriminate against female-owned centres, commercial licensed child care centres and will certainly result in job losses and the closure of many woman-owned small businesses.

I look forward to hearing your reply advocating for a more inclusive approach that supports Ontario families, childcare workers and small business owners alike.

Sincerely,

**Your name**

**Your address**

**Send the Letter to any or all of the following and any others you may think of that we have not.**

Ahmed Hussen

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

Employment and Social Development Canada

Ahmed.Hussen@parl.gc.ca

Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

Office of the Prime Minister

pm@pm.gc.ca

Chrystia Freeland

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

chrystia.freeland@canada.ca

Stephen Lecceco

Minister of Education

MPP KIng-Vaughan

Stephen.Lecceco@pc.ola.org

Lloyd Longfield

Member of Parliament for Guelph

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Mike Schreiner

Member for Guelph

mschreiner-co@ola.org

Cam Guthrie

Mayor of Guelph

mayor@guelph.ca

Guelph Ward 3 Councillors (Current Ward of our centre)

Phil Alt

City Councillor

phil.alt@guelph.ca

Michele Richardson

City Councillor

michele.richardson@guelph.ca