

Dear Families of MECC,

I am reaching out with deep concern and an urgent plea for your support. As you know, the care and education of your children are at the heart of everything we do. But the current direction of the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program is putting this at risk. We believe there is a better way to make childcare affordable without sacrificing the quality of care, and we need your help to make that happen.

Starting the week of October 4th, childcare operators across Ontario will come together for an **Awareness Week** to raise our voices and demand that the Ontario government revisit and revise the CWELCC funding formula for 2025. This is a crucial moment for families, educators, and childcare centers alike. We need your help to bring awareness to the challenges we're facing and to advocate for a better future for our children.

### **Quality Care at Risk**

The current funding model is threatening the quality of care that we provide to your children. By imposing strict funding levels and granting government bodies the authority to reverse important operational decisions, the program is stripping away the flexibility we need to adapt and improve our programs. This one-size-fits-all approach, designed by those who often don't understand the daily realities of childcare, ignores the unique needs of our centers and, most importantly, the needs of your children.

As a result, it becomes increasingly difficult for us to maintain the individualized, high-quality care that is essential for your child's development. We believe that every child deserves the best start in life, and the current restrictions are making that promise harder to keep.

### **Long Waitlists and Lack of Access to Quality Care**

One of the most frustrating impacts of the current funding formula is the creation of longer waitlists and the reduction of available spaces. Because the model prevents commercial operators from expanding the number of spaces we can offer, families who urgently need care are left without options.

At the same time, subsidized spaces are often taken by families who may not need them as much, leaving parents who truly need affordable childcare waiting indefinitely. The result is not only fewer choices for parents but also more time spent searching for a place that meets your family's needs. Many children are missing out on critical early learning opportunities during this wait.



### **Childcare Educator Wages and Workforce Shortages**

The funding formula is also placing our educators—the heart and soul of our programs—at risk. The program’s design forces centers into an impossible choice: either comply with the CWELCC model or risk losing essential funding. If we do not comply, the very funding that supports fair wages for our dedicated educators will be pulled. This creates an environment where educators, who tirelessly nurture your children’s growth and well-being, are undervalued and at risk of leaving the profession.

This systemic undervaluation is driving talented educators away, leading to staffing shortages that directly impact the quality of care your children receive. Without adequate staffing, it’s impossible to maintain the high-quality education and attention we strive to provide. If this trend continues, the shortage of qualified educators will further weaken the quality of childcare across Ontario.

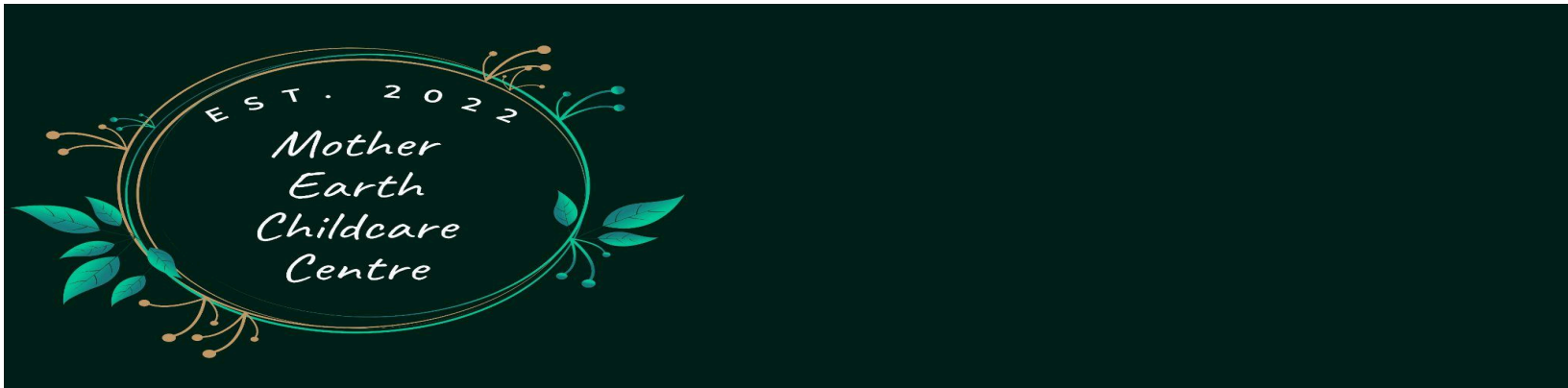
### **Stripping Away Support for Children’s Developmental Needs**

The CWELCC program threatens to pull crucial funding that provides additional support for children with complex developmental needs if we choose to opt out of the program. This funding is vital for ensuring that these children receive the individualized care and resources they need to thrive. By holding this support hostage, the program is jeopardizing the well-being of the most vulnerable children in our care. Cutting off such critical resources is not only short-sighted—it is inhumane. How can we claim to be supporting Ontario families when the very funding that helps children meet their developmental milestones is at risk of being taken away?

### **The Hidden Costs of Administration**

Another critical issue is the administrative burden placed on centers like ours. The complex reporting and compliance requirements of the current system take significant time and resources away from where they’re truly needed – your children. We are being asked to spend countless hours filling out paperwork, meeting regulatory demands, and navigating a system that prioritizes bureaucracy over the well-being of families and children.

This heavy administrative load means that funds which could be used to directly improve your child’s learning environment – through better materials, enrichment programs, or even lower fees – are instead being funneled into complying with a rigid, inefficient system. There is a better way to lower childcare fees without compromising quality or increasing administrative expenses.



## A Better Way Forward

We believe there is a solution that benefits everyone—families, educators, and childcare centers alike. A path that balances affordability with quality, access with choice, and government support with the autonomy providers need to deliver exceptional care.

A revised funding formula should prioritize empowering families with direct support, reducing unnecessary government oversight, and granting centers the flexibility to offer the highest quality care possible. This would allow us to focus our time, resources, and energy on what truly matters: your children.

## How You Can Help

We are launching our **Awareness Week** on **October 4th**, and we need your voice. During this week, childcare operators and parents across Ontario will be advocating for changes to the CWELCC funding formula. We ask that you take a moment to reach out to your local government representatives and share your story. Let them know how these policies are affecting your family, your options for care, and your children's future.

By joining together, we can make a difference. We can push for a system that ensures affordable childcare without sacrificing quality, one that respects and values the work of educators and gives families the choices they deserve.

Enclosed, we are providing a letter template that you can use to write to your local MP and advocate for the changes we need. You can also find more information and access to community petitions for change in the CWELCC system on our website; [www.motherearthchildcarecentre.ca](http://www.motherearthchildcarecentre.ca). Together, we can fight for the high-quality, affordable childcare that every family in Ontario deserves, regardless of which licensed centre they choose to attend.

With warmth and gratitude for your trust and support,

Seandel Brown

Owner/Supervisor

RECE/Montessori Teacher

Mother Earth Childcare Centre