



# **Modernizing Child Care in Ontario**

**Presentation to Standing Committee  
on Social Development, Health and  
Culture**

**August 8, 2012**

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario



## Goal

- Over the next 3 years to stabilize, transform the system to enable high quality, consistent services that support future growth.

## Long Term Vision for Child Care:

...to build a high-quality, accessible and coordinated early learning and child care system for children before they start school and for school-aged children. The system will focus on learning in safe and caring play-based environments, on healthy physical, social, emotional and cognitive development, and on early identification and intervention for children in need of supports. Where possible, services will be located in or linked with schools to enhance seamlessness for children and families.

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario



## Guiding Principles

1. Support and choice for children and families
2. Commitment to quality programs for all children
3. Efficient funding formula
4. Supportive Legislation and regulations
5. Evidence-based decision making and reporting

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario



## Action Plan for the Medium Term

*Emphasis on maintaining and improving service in the current child care system rather than growing the system through the creation of new child care spaces or additional subsidies:*

1. Operating funding formula
2. Capital funding priorities
3. Quality programs
4. Modernized legislative and regulatory framework
5. Support for accountability and capacity-building

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario

## Consultations in Windsor/Essex



- To occur on September 10, 2012 with the broader Early Learning Community.
- Summary of the feedback to be provided to the Best Start Implementation Committee for their consideration at their meeting of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to submit to the Ministry of Education in time for their deadline of September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Your Opportunity to Provide Input!**  
**Early Learning Professionals, Supervisors and Operators**  
**Ontario Early Years Professionals, Resource Consultants**



**Modernizing Child Care in Ontario**

**Facilitator: Jennifer Kirkham, Consultant who is assisting the Best Start Implementation Committee in defining what a child and family service system for children prenatally to age 12 should look like for Windsor-Essex County.**

**Monday, September 10, 2012 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**  
**Giociaro Club - Salon C**  
**3745 North Talbot Rd., Oldcastle, ON**

**To learn more about the Modernization of Child Care in Ontario, please visit:**  
**[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/Modernizing\\_Child\\_Care.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/Modernizing_Child_Care.pdf)**

**The Government of Ontario has released a discussion paper entitled, "Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, and Working Together. This document lays out a plan to stabilize and transform the current system to enable higher-quality, consistent services that can better support future growth. This will give you an opportunity to provide feedback to the Best Start Implementation Committee who is formulating a local response on behalf of the Early Learning and Child Care Community of Windsor-Essex County.**



**To register for this FREE session please call 211 or 519-258-0247 or  
Toll Free: 1-866-686-0045 or Email: [info@211southwestontario.ca](mailto:info@211southwestontario.ca)  
Hours: Monday to Friday - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
For further information contact  
Rosemary Grayer at 519-255-5200 Ext. 5338  
[rgrayer@city.windsor.on.ca](mailto:rgrayer@city.windsor.on.ca)  
or  
Laura Emery at 519-255-5200 Ext. 5209  
[lemery@city.windsor.on.ca](mailto:lemery@city.windsor.on.ca)**

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions

## Operating Funding Formula



- How can the approach to child care funding be revised to enable more transparent and efficient allocations to municipal service system managers and First Nations?
- What elements should be considered when developing a new funding formula (i.e. demographics, demand, costs)?
- How can current funding be streamlined or consolidated to improve flexibility and efficiency?

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions

## Capital Funding Priorities



- How can the Ministry of Education facilitate collaboration and joint planning among school boards, service system managers and child care operators so they can plan and manage this approach?
- What supporting policies are required to ensure the success of a schools-first child care policy (i.e. long-term planning on space for school-based operators, reasonable accommodation costs, facilities, and other shared space issues)?
- Where school-based space does not meet community needs, are there additional capital tools that could support community-based child care operators?



# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions



## Quality Programs

- Based on your experiences and knowledge of existing research and evidence, how can provincial program guidelines support program quality?
- How can program quality be demonstrated and connected to the licensing process?
- What additional tools or professional development opportunities would be helpful to support ongoing quality improvement?

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions

## Quality Programs



- How can we ensure that program guidelines meet the distinct needs of diverse communities?
- What components of the special needs resourcing program should be reviewed and streamlined (i.e. eligibility criteria, services provided, qualifications and resource consultants)?
- What resources about program quality could the government develop to help parents make choices about care?

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions

## Modernized Legislative and Regulatory Framework



- How should standards be updated to improve health, safety and overall quality in child care?
- How can the government reduce duplication and overlap in requirements for licensed child care providers?
- How can the government more effectively harmonize standards across legislation as well as regulatory requirements in child care (i.e. numbers/ages of children in licensed vs. unlicensed home care, clarification of programs that do and do not require licenses)?

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions

## Modernized Legislative and Regulatory Framework



- As the government looks to deliver on the commitment to provide on-site after-school programs for 6-12 year old, should we consider a new licensing category for older children that builds on the strengths of a recreation program model (i.e. different program requirements for older children, participation in recreation-focused programs)?
- How could new licensing approaches support home and centre based care in smaller, rural and remote communities (i.e. permitting home based providers to care for more children where there is more than one provider, providing greater flexibility for family or mixed age groupings and space configurations)?
- How can the government foster quality in informal home-based child care?

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions



## Support for Accountability and Capacity Building

- How can risk assessments help the government use licensing resources more effectively, encourage compliance and reward high-performing child care operators?
- How can the government encourage quality and licensing compliance (i.e. administrative orders, administrative monetary penalties)?
- What tools can support program and administrative leadership in child care (i.e. for centre directors and staff, volunteer not-for profit boards)?

# Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Consultation Questions



## Support for Accountability and Capacity Building

- How can the government support the use of evaluative tools in licensed child care, including common registration and screening tools, as well as the Ontario Education Number?
- What information should be collected from the operators annually in order to provide a regular cycle of public reporting on the child care system in Ontario (i.e. hours of operators, parent fees, staff compensation)?