



June 18, 2017

The Honourable Michael Coteau
Minister of Children and Youth Services
Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism
Ministry of Children and Youth Services/Anti-Racism Directorate
14th Floor, 56 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2S3

Re: Meeting Follow Up and Request to Legislate the Child and Youth Care Profession

Dear Hon. Minister Coteau,

Since the fall of 2016, we have communicated with your office regarding our formal request for the regulation of the Child and Youth Care (CYC) Profession. In March of 2017, we met with your policy advisor to discuss this request and reviewed the following; the academic pre-service qualifications of CYC practitioners, the role that CYC practitioners play in meeting the vulnerable and high risk needs of young people in Ontario, the variety of settings in which CYC practice unfolds, and how regulation of CYC practice is in line with MCYS's effort to better safeguard the needs of high risk and vulnerable young people, particularly those in care, and those whom support them.

In addition, many letters of support of this request have been received and submitted to MCYS from other service providers invested in safeguarding the needs of high risk and vulnerable young people in Ontario. However, we continue to await a response from MCYS to this request for regulation.

Although MCYS did not release a systemic review report on Autism services, we were pleased to hear of your plans to regulate, Behavioural Specialists (ABA Practitioners), supporting the needs of children and families with Autism in Ontario. We are in full support of any and all plans to improve services and supports and increase accountability and safety of children, youth and their families in Ontario. Generally, Behaviour Specialists receive a one year post diploma certificate with Ontario Colleges. One of the academic pre-service qualifications for this post-diploma certificate is a three year advanced diploma in CYC. We are encouraged by this regulation development, and believe the next announcement of a regulated profession must be Child and Youth Care.

Since February of 2017, there have been four separate catastrophic events in group care in Ontario, claiming the lives of four children in the care of MCYS, and a CYC worker. We would hope that MCYS now recognizes the need to regulate the practice of those caring for children and youth in residential group care environments. These children deserve this safeguard; and as documented in MCYS's Residential Review Report, clearly this human resource requires standardization in terms of pre-service qualifications and practice. Regulation of CYC practice has become an urgent matter.



We believe that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is the Ministry that should be responsible for our field of practice. As Early Childhood Educators, Social Service Workers, and now Behaviour Specialists, are regulated professionals, so should Child and Youth Care. **The lives of high risk and vulnerable children, in the care of MCYS and served by the CYC practitioner across sectors and across the province, must have equal value.**

We again request to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss your response to our request for legislated practice and to determine how we can work alongside the government to improve the lives, safety and outcomes for **all** children and youth in Ontario.

Please let us know if you require any further materials or resources to inform this discussion.

Yours truly,

Christine Gaitens
President of the Board

cc Kathleen Wynne
cc Hon Eric Hoskins
cc Hon Helena Jaczek
cc Hon Mitzie Hunter
cc Jagmeet Singh
cc Monique Taylor
cc France Gelinias
cc Hon Yasir Naqvi
cc Bill Mauro
cc Marie-France Lalonde
cc Sue Wong
cc Hon Tracey McCharles
cc Hon Patty Hajdu
cc Kim Moran
cc Irwin Elman
cc Miles Hopper
cc Marian Mlakar