

Dear (MPP name),
Dear Minister Coteau (mcsmin@mcys.gov.on.ca)
Dear Minister Hoskins, (ehoskins.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

I have family members who are Child and Youth Care Practitioners (CYCPs) in Ontario. I also have family members who receive support from CYCPs. I would like to take this opportunity to request regulation of Child and Youth Care Practice in Ontario and to express my concerns with regards to the impact of the *Psychotherapy Act*. Child and Youth Care Practitioners (also known as Child and Youth Workers, Child Care Workers and Child and Youth Counsellors) provide front line support to the most vulnerable children and youth within our communities. They work within numerous settings including; child welfare, youth justice, health and mental health, education, residential treatment facilities, and other community based agencies. They work in the spaces where children and youth and their caregivers live their lives to promote mental health, wellbeing and pro-social development. Their scope of practice is unique and their work includes psychotherapy technique.

The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC), has prepared a report, "*Safe Guarding the Other 23 Hours: Legislation of Child and Youth Care Practice in Ontario*", to explain the need for legislation of our profession. **I am in full support of this request. I believe that legislation of Child and Youth Care Practice will improve services to some of our most vulnerable community members and help to provide the highest quality of care and services to children and youth in Ontario. Accountability in this field will be clearly established, and the safety of the public greatly enhanced by ensuring that only qualified Child and Youth Care Practitioners are working with our children and youth.**

With the *Psychotherapy Act* in effect in the absence of a College of Child and Youth Care Practice, many CYCPs will not be able to do the jobs they were trained to do as they were hired to do them. Their scope of practice will shrink, young people will no longer receive their full services and wait lists will grow longer because many Child and Youth Care Practitioners will not qualify for the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario despite the excellent education they have received in Ontario Colleges and Universities. This represents a serious increase in risk to young people in Ontario and my family members.

I ask that you support the OACYCs request for regulation of Child and Youth Care Practice and that you help them find an immediate solution to the current problem occurring as a result of the *Psychotherapy Act*. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,