

March 20, 2015

Attention: **Christine Gaitens**
President
The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care
3-1750 The Queensway, Suite 503
Toronto, Ontario
M9C 5H5

Dear Christine,

As a parent of a child who has been under the care of 8 different Child and Youth Workers, both in the classroom and in day treatment programs, I strongly support the efforts of the OACYC to regulate the Child and Youth care practitioners in Ontario. From Kindergarten to Grade 5, my son had at least one CYW caring for him at a time, in some cases it was one-on-one support as his needs were so complex.

I came to understand that it was the skills and experience of these workers who would determine whether my son would have a good year in school or a challenging year, as they were the front line workers in his care. It was less about the teacher and the school administration who determined his success - it was the CYWs who were able to help my son when he was going through his most difficult periods. They were often alone with him in isolation from the other students, providing one-on-one educational instruction, and shadowing him in the schoolyard to help with social interactions.

Due to the critical role that these professionals play in the development of our children who are often in crisis and their lives actually depend on support workers with specialized skills, I feel that it is absolutely essential that this field be fully regulated and accredited.

Kind regards,

Andrea Boulden

Volunteer/Presenter for the following:

- Parents for Children's Mental Health
- The Ontario Centre of Excellence
- Tourette Canada
- TDSB