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Ms. Christine Gatiens,
President, Board of Directors,
Ontario Association of Child & Youth Care,
C/O The School of Child and Youth Care,
Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street,
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

June 19, 2017

via email: office@oacyc.org

Dear Ms. Gatiens;

I write in support of the efforts of the OACYC to obtain registration and regulation for Child & Youth Care practitioners in Ontario. As I have travelled globally within our field, I have seen and experienced the value and benefits of the regulation of CYC practitioners. Regulation helps to ensure quality services.

It seems strange to me that a province with so many excellent CYC educational programs would not also have a legislated process of regulation for those who practice in the field. Indeed, it can be somewhat awkward when one visits a country like South Africa, which does have well developed regulation for CYC practitioners, to try and explain why an advanced province like Ontario does not have the same.

Child and Youth Care practitioners work with the most vulnerable and needy of our children. They work in the life-world of young people and families to help them learn to live their lives differently as they live those lives. In schools, residential centres, communities, on the streets, or in the homes, CYC practitioners help struggling young people and their families find ways to live less painful, healthier lives and to reach the potential which is theirs.

In the absence of adequate legislation anyone can claim to be a Child & Youth Care practitioner. Given the number of vulnerable and needy children, young people and families who are served by CYC practitioners, the absence of regulation is a case of systemic neglect. The failure to ensure adequate protection of young people and families through the legislated regulation of CYC practitioners seems close to the systemic abuse of vulnerable young people and families. Unfortunately, the most vulnerable of our children, receive less than adequate protection. They deserve better.

I am fully in support of the OACYC's initiative to obtain legislative regulation for CYC Practitioners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Thom Garfat", written in a cursive style.

Thom Garfat, MA, PhD.