



Council

Ontario Division Canadian Union of Public Employees

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March 1, 2006

Sheila Birrell
The Corporation of the Town of Markham
Clerk's Department / Corporate Services Commission
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON
L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor:

I am writing on behalf of 150,000 CUPE Ontario members living and working in communities across the province, to urge you to join other municipalities in pressuring federal and provincial governments to preserve the national child care program and our federal provincial child care agreement on Early Learning and Care – Best Start Plan.

The federal-provincial bi-lateral early learning and care agreement, laid the foundation for Ontario's Best Start Plan and CMSM/DSSAB Best Start Transitional/Infrastructure Plans which will create the following:

- 25,000 regulated child care spaces;
- increased services for children with special needs; and
- improved quality standards and increased compensation for those working in the field.

Municipal governments in Ontario have a direct and vested interest for ensuring their Best Start Transitional Plans and Best Start Infrastructure Plans receive the funding they need to come to fruition.

The City of Toronto recently passed a Motion that commits to work with families, child care programs and advocates in that city to ensure the federal government fulfils its five-year funding commitment to build a national early learning and care program in Ontario and across Canada.

We are writing to encourage your Council to take similar action and to join with community partners in sending a clear message to the federal government that Ontario residents expect them to honour these agreements.

Cancellation of the federal/provincial Early Learning and Child Care program by the new Conservative government puts all our municipal child care plans in jeopardy. We urge you to act now to protect these plans and the interests of children and families in your municipality.

Sincerely,

Patrick (Sid) Ryan
President

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