



Child Care Association for
Resources to Administrators

June 30, 2020

Ms. Tracy Allard, MLA
#207, 10605 West Side Drive
Grande Prairie, AB Canada
T8V 8E6

Re: Recommendations for updating the Child Care Licensing Act and Regulation.

Dear Ms. Allard,

The Child Care Association for Resources to Administrators (CAFRA) is an association of Early Learning and Child Care professionals who foster bold leadership and advocate for environments that support the well-being of children and families. CAFRA consists of 40 members representing approximately 85 Edmonton & area, community operated, Child Care Centres.

CAFRA is pleased to add our contribution to the consultation process surrounding the review of the Child Care Licensing Act and Regulation.

Our society would like to highlight that we feel the current Act and Regulation is particularly strong regarding the current Early Childhood Educator to child ratios and would like to see this quality piece of the legislation maintained.

Additionally we would like to submit the following items as our highest priority recommendations for changes to the Act & Regulation:

1. **Add an expiry date to Child Development Assistant certification, to ensure that all Early Childhood Educators are eventually meeting a minimum standard of requiring post-secondary education.**
2. **Add the requirement of a minimum of one CDS/CDW per cohort, ensuring that all children are receiving early learning and child care from an educated professional.**
3. **Ensure mandatory ongoing Professional Development as a requirement of maintaining certification status for all Early Childhood Educators.**
4. **Amend the use of language in the Act & Regulation to move away from a focus on a custodial care model and instead clearly state the principles of high quality in Early Learning and Child Care. This includes consistently referring to Early Childhood Educators as such, and not as caregivers, child care workers, etc.**
5. **Adopt FLIGHT as the required curriculum framework for all approved early learning and care programs.**

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and, in particular, for leading this important review of Alberta's Child Care Licensing Act and Regulation.

On behalf of the CAFRA Board of Directors and Membership,

Sincerely,

Shea Wicks
CAFRA President
Executive Director
Southside Mothers' Day Out

Tracey Findlay
CAFRA Director
Program Director
1000 Women Child Care Centre

Leah Tolman
CAFRA Director
Executive Director
City West Childcare &
Community Support Society

Irene St. Savard
CAFRA Secretary/Treasurer
Director
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Adine Shuchuk
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Louise Booker
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Early Learning Centre

Melissa Taylor
Assistant Director
Edmonton Hospital Workers
Child Care Society

Kristy Thomas
CAFRA Director
Director
McKernan Child Development

Cc.

Hon. Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Children's Services

Ms Tania Brudler, Executive Director, Early Childhood Development Branch