



November 2013

Association of Early Childhood Educators  
489 College Street, Suite 206  
Toronto, ON M6G 1A5

RE: Discussion Paper: A Dialogue on Professional Learning for Registered Early Childhood Educators

The Niagara Child Care Sector Executive, on behalf of the Niagara community of licensed child care providers and child care related services wishes to respond to the AECEO's Discussion Paper of June 2013.

Niagara's Early Childhood Educators take pride in the professional status conferred by the Early Childhood Educators Act and the College of Early Childhood Educators, a professionalism that is part and parcel of the quality of our programs, and the actions of our members who care for Niagara's children.

We support the College of ECE's current process to develop a continuous professional learning program for its members which will document accountability and adherence to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. Niagara Child Care Sector welcomes the College transforming current professional learning from the current state of members committed to ongoing education into an institutionalized framework with specified requirements. We trust in the College to establish the criteria which will define and identify the wide variety of professional learning activities that are available.

In respect to recommendation III within your paper, while Niagara Child Care Sector agrees with the AECEO that communities would benefit most by a coordinated effort by providers to enhance professional learning activities, our Sector feels that a provincial 'clearinghouse' of professional learning activities, by the AECEO as proposed, would not be in the best interests of all Ontario's children. The wide variety of cities, towns and rural areas across the province demands a structure that focuses on the individual character and needs of each community by assigning community-based organizations to provide the clearinghouse role. An example of local early learning and child care resource centres is Niagara's own Early Childhood Community Development Centre, which already serves the child care community with professional learning experiences and would be a very effective organization to take on the 'clearinghouse' role.

Niagara Child Care Sector Executive welcomes your response. We look forward to the continued development of our professional Early Childhood Education and Care field.

Niagara Child Care Sector Executive