

**Ministry of Education**

Associate Minister

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**MEMORANDUM TO:** Child Care and Early Years Sector Partners

**FROM:** Indira Naidoo-Harris  
Associate Minister of Education, Early Years and Child Care

**DATE:** October 28, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Thunder Bay Regional Session on Renewed Early Years  
and Child Care Policy Framework and Expansion Strategy

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The Ministry of Education is developing a Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework and Expansion Strategy to support an integrated system of child care and early years programs focused on quality, affordability, access, parent choice and flexibility.

The Framework builds on important achievements to date and will include an expansion strategy to deliver on our government's recently announced commitment to create 100,000 new child care spaces for infants, toddlers and preschoolers over the next five years.

The ministry will be hosting a series of regional sessions across the province to engage child care and early years sector partners, community organizations, and families. Advice received from these sessions will be critical to inform the development of the renewed framework and expansion strategy.

As an important ministry partner, your organization is invited to identify **one** representative to attend the session below being held in Thunder Bay:

**Location:** Valhalla Inn, Scandia Room  
1 Valhalla Inn Road  
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6J1

**Date:** November 7, 2016

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch will be provided)

Please register [online](#) by **November 4, 2016**, and contact Amika Balram at [amika.balram@ontario.ca](mailto:amika.balram@ontario.ca) regarding any dietary needs. Participation in the regional sessions are voluntary and the government will reimburse attendees for travel, accommodation, and replacement supply staff for attending this event, in accordance with Government of Ontario policies and directives.

The ministry will also be hosting a separate Town Hall session in Thunder Bay:

**Location:** Valhalla Inn, Viking Room  
1 Valhalla Inn Road  
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6J1

**Date:** November 7, 2016

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (light refreshments will be provided)

This session is intended to engage parents and families with children under 12, and no registration is required. Attached is a poster, which I encourage you to advertise and distribute in areas of your community so parents may participate.

This is an exciting time for child care and the early years sector, and I look forward to having these discussions with you as we move forward on developing the *Renewed Early Years Policy Framework and Child Care Expansion Strategy* so that Ontario children and families continue to have access to quality, affordable care. Together, we are helping Ontario's children get the best possible start in life.

Sincerely,



Indira Naidoo-Harris

CC: Shannon Fuller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years Division  
Heather Exley, Education Officer  
Kelly Massaro-Joblin, Child Care Advisor  
Lea Vanderwey, Regional Manager, French-Language, Aboriginal Learning & Research