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December 10, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: **Bill 66: Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018**

Summary:

On Thursday, December 6, 2018, the Minister of Economic Development and Trade introduced Bill 66 for first reading. The bill's overall purpose is to reduce regulatory burdens on business enterprises by streamlining regulations across government. As stated in the government's press release:

If passed, the *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act* will, along with regulatory changes, cut business costs, harmonize regulatory requirements with other jurisdictions, end duplication and reduce barriers to investment.

Proposed Legislative Amendments Affecting the Education Sector:

The bill introduces changes to the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and *Education Act* that may concern our school boards. First, the bill introduces amendments to the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* that would remove restrictions on home-based child care providers, allowing additional children. Second, the bill lowers the age of children that authorized recreational programs can serve from six years to four years of age. Third, the bill amends the *Education Act* in respect of the conditions required for third party childcare programs.

Below are highlights of the proposed amendments:

Currently, sub-subparagraph 1 iv A of subsection 6 (3) of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* provides that the group of children in the care of a one home child care provider may not include more than two children who are younger than two years old. This sub-subparagraph is amended to increase the number to three children who are younger than two years old.

Currently, sub-subparagraph 1 iv B of subsection 6 (3) of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* provides that the group of children in the care of two home child care providers may not include more than four children who are younger than two years old. This sub-subparagraph is amended to increase the number to six children who are younger than two years old.

Currently, subparagraph 2 iii of subsection 6 (3) of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* provides that the group of children in the care of an unlicensed child care provider may not include more than two children who are younger than two years old. This subparagraph is amended to increase the number to three children who are younger than two years old.

Currently, subparagraph 3 iv of subsection 6 (3) of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* provides that, with respect to in-home services, financial assistance must be provided under the Act for child care in order to be excepted from the application of subsection 6 (1). This subparagraph is repealed.

Currently, paragraph 4 of subsection 6 (4) of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* provides that only children who are six years old or older may be registered in an authorized recreational and skill building program. This paragraph is amended to lower the age restriction to children who are four years old or older.

Currently, paragraph 2 of subsection 259 (2) of the *Education Act* provides that a board must ensure that a third party program operated for the purposes of section 259 of the Act is led by an early childhood educator or another person who meets criteria set out in a regulation made under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*. This paragraph is repealed.

Currently, paragraph 1 of subsection 259.1 (2) of the *Education Act* provides that a board must ensure that a third party program operated for the purposes of section 259.1 of the Act must meet the requirements set out in subsection 259 (1) or (2) or be a program prescribed by the regulations. This paragraph is re-enacted to provide that a board must ensure that a third party program operated for the purposes of section 259.1 of the Act must be a child care centre licensed under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* or another program prescribed by the regulations made under the *Education Act*.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca