

2011 – 101564

Ms. Marilyn Dumaresq
Success by 6 Peel
mdumaresq@pcyi.org

Dear Ms. Dumaresq:

Thank you for your letter regarding the province's Early Learning and Child Care Investment Initiative. I am pleased to respond.

I appreciate the time you have taken to express your support for our government's decision to introduce Bill 173, the *Better Tomorrow Ontario Act 2011* which gives school boards more flexibility to deliver before-and after-school programs.

As you may be aware, responsibility for child care was transferred from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to the Ministry of Education, effective April 27, 2010. I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to my Cabinet colleague, the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education, for her consideration.

As you may know, Dr. Charles Pascal is working as an advisor to me to develop plans for the Best Start Child and Family Centres, an initiative that will build on the momentum of full-day kindergarten. This will be further guided by the advice received from expert committees, both internal and external to government, as well as community meetings, consultations and online submissions. The suggestions and comments provided in your letter will also be considered as we move forward with this work.

While there is much work to be done, our government continues to be committed to giving children the best possible start in life. Together, I believe we can create a genuinely integrated and more accessible system for Ontario's children and families.

We will take your request into consideration as we move forward with this initiative.

Thank you again for writing and for your commitment to improving access to services for Ontario's children and families.

Yours truly,

Laurel Broten
Minister

c: The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education