

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Success By 6 Peel supports the Ontario Government's decision on early learning partnerships with child care service providers

MISSISSAUGA, **December 16, 2010** – Success By 6 Peel welcomes the McGuinty government's decision to allow school boards to offer extended day services in an integrated full day learning program through third party providers.

In Peel community-based partners such as the YMCA, Family Day Care and PLASP Child Care Services have offered high quality, affordable and cost-effective before- and after-care programs for many years. They have developed effective partnerships with the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board in the past year to deliver programs which are integrated with the full day learning curriculum, ensuring a seamless day for children. The province's announcement to change the legislation governing full day learning for four and five year olds will allow these partnerships to continue, and will ensure that the cost of the extended day services will remain affordable for families.

"We believe that this kind of partnership between the school boards and community-based child care services will enable children in the full day learning programs to benefit from the respective expertise of the partners in a high quality and cost-effective manner, so we welcome this announcement by the Province," says John Huether, Chair, Success By 6 Peel.

In April 2010, during the legislative hearings on the new Full Day Learning program for four and five year olds, Success By 6 Peel advocated for the inclusion of extended early learning and child care services by not-for-profit community-based organizations in a letter to the Honourable Vic Dhillon Member of Provincial Parliament, Brampton West and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy. At the time, the legislation that passed did not allow for the provision of the extended day programs by third party providers. The Minister's announcement promises a change to this provision.

"We firmly believe that child care service providers have a strong history and positive track record in providing excellent results for children, and together with the school board's early learning program, children will have a seamless support system that will help them get off to their best start in school," says Huether.

In Peel, 32 per cent of children are not ready to start school. Success By 6 Peel expects this statistic will improve with the new integrated service model of full day kindergarten and before-and-after school programs.

About Success By 6 Peel

Success By 6 Peel is a regional collaborative of more than 40 partners dedicated to the well-being of children 0 to 6 in Peel Region. Operating in partnership with United Way of Peel Region, Success By 6 Peel enhances current community initiatives, develops new programs, and is at the forefront of advocacy and policy issues for the benefit of children in Peel region.

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For further information, or to arrange an interview contact:

Suset Silva, Communications Manager, Success By 6 Peel
Office: 905-602-3631 Cell: 416-721-5273 Email: ssilva@unitedwaypeel.org