

July 2, 2015

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Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE)
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Michel Boivin, Ph.D., MSRC/FSRC
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Jennifer Jenkins, Ph.D., C.Psych.
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University of Toronto

Dear Dr. Akbari, Dr. Boivin and Dr. Jenkins:

The Public Health Early Years (PHEY) group consists of senior management in Public Health in Ontario that serves as a consult, advisory, and knowledge translation group to improve knowledge and awareness of science, need, and effective interventions for children and families under age 6 years; across sectors, including Public Health, and with our government partners within Ontario.

We strongly support increased attention to, and increased investments in early childhood development, a critical Social Determinant of Health. Neuroscience and a breadth of research studies have quite clearly shown that investments in children and families, and early childhood education (ECE) in the early years have an enormous return on investment. While this country suffers from a severe gap in terms of a coordinating body for children and families (as per the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendations for Canada), we would like to write and endorse this open letter re: preschool as an important component of a coordinated approach.

The letter clearly outlines the benefits of **high quality**, accessible early childhood education programs for children and families. We fully endorse this letter and its call for investment in high quality ECE, as an extremely important component of a coordinated system for children and families.

Yours truly,

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