



# **Welcome to the 2018 Children's Services Forum**



# Opening Remarks

**Luisa Artuso**

**Director of Children's Early  
Years Division County of  
Wellington  
OMSSA Board Member**

# Opening Remarks

## Morning Humour

# Provincial Update

**Shannon Fuller**

**Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Ministry Education**

support every child  
reach every student

**RENEWED EARLY YEARS  
AND CHILD CARE POLICY  
FRAMEWORK: UPDATES**

Ontario Municipal Social Services Association 2018 Children's Forum

April 17, 2018

# Updates

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- ❖ Since the last meeting on November 27, 2017, the government announced the 2018 Budget, which includes an additional \$2.2 billion investment in licensed child care over the next three years to implement free preschool, increase affordability of licensed child care, expand services on reserve and better support the early years and child care workforce.
  
- ❖ In addition, the Early Years and Child Care Division has continued to make progress on many of the priorities identified in the Renewed Framework, including:
  - Affordability Strategy
  - Workforce Strategy
  - Centres of Excellence
  - EarlyON Child and Family Centres
  - The Journey Together
  - Regulatory Amendments
  - Capital Updates



# 2018 Budget Commitments

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## Free Preschool

- ❖ Beginning in September 2020, the government will implement free preschool for children aged 2.5 to 4 years. All preschool aged children already in the licensed child care system would receive child care free of charge.
- ❖ To support this commitment, the government will further increase capital investments to create 14,000 more child care spaces across the province by 2024.
  - ❖ This is in addition to the previously announced \$1.6 billion capital investment as part of the commitment to help 100,000 more children access licensed child care.

## Increased Operating Funding

- ❖ Beginning in January 2019, provide an additional \$162M in funding over three years through the general operating grant to service system managers to increase access to licensed child care, support fee reductions and/or eliminate fee subsidy waitlists. This funding would support affordability measures across the system.
- ❖ As part of the commitment to help 100,000 more children aged 0-4 access licensed child care, the government is also providing an additional \$90 million in 2018-19, and ongoing, to support continued expansion, including:
  - \$53 million to create at least 4,200 fee subsidies and;
  - \$26 million to establish base funding for home child care agencies



# 2018 Budget Commitments, cont'd...

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## Workforce

- ❖ Beginning in April 2020, implement a wage grid for staff in the sector, including Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), non-ECEs, and supervisors in licensed child care and staff working in EarlyON centres.
  - The grid for ECEs will align more closely with ECEs working in Full-Day Kindergarten.
  - As of April 2020, the current wage enhancement grant will be eliminated.
  
- ❖ Starting in 2018, the ministry will engage partners in the sector, including the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE) and service system managers on the specifics of the wage grid and implementation processes.

## Innovation Fund

- ❖ The Innovation Fund will provide \$30 million over two years to fund projects that propose innovative solutions to complex issues in the early years and child care system, and encourage growth in unique and inventive ways.
  
- ❖ The first call for applications is expected to launch in Fall 2018, with project selection in Spring 2019.





# 2018 Budget Commitments, cont'd...

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## Child Care On-Reserve

- ❖ The government is providing \$40M over three years to support the expansion of licensed child care programs in First Nations communities.
- ❖ Starting in 2018-19, this will include:
  - Providing dedicated funding to support First Nations partners planning capacity starting in 2018-19
  - Implementing a new funding approach to stabilize existing child care programs starting in 2018-19
  - Working with First Nations to develop and implement plans for expansion in communities with existing child care programs on reserve, and to make child care available in more First Nations communities, starting in 2018-19
  - \$290M in capital funding over six years to build new, or retrofit existing, child care facilities on reserve, and ongoing operating funding for new and expanded child care programs
- ❖ In 2018, the ministry would begin an engagement and planning process with First Nations organizations and communities to understand their local needs and develop detailed expansion plans using approved operating and capital benchmarks.

# Base Funding for Licensed Home Child Care

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- ❖ Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework committed to **strengthening the licensed home child care sector by providing base funding to give more options for high-quality care.**
- ❖ The licensed home child care sector is key to our expansion strategy to help 100,000 more children access quality licensed care across the province.
- ❖ This is why the ministry is making a new investment in the licensed home child care sector, providing stable and predictable funding to agencies to assist them in forecasting, planning and actively recruiting more providers
- ❖ The government will increase operating funding by \$26 million in 2018-2019 (\$19.5 million in calendar 2018) to support a base funding model for home child care agencies.
- ❖ With this funding, the ministry's expectation is that service system managers will work with home child care agencies to reduce administrative charges and demonstrate that this reduction benefits:
  - 1) Providers, in the form of increased compensation; and,
  - 2) Families, in the form of reduced fees.
- ❖ The first year of LHCC base funding will be a transition year. This will allow the ministry to work with service system managers on the new approach and offer opportunities for feedback and learning to inform adjustments for the future.



# Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework

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- ❖ Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework was released on June 6, 2017.
  
- ❖ This framework builds on previous progress and sets out the following vision for early years and child care in Ontario:
  - All children and families have access to a range of high-quality, inclusive and affordable early years and child care programs and services that are child- and family-centred and contribute to children's learning, development and well-being.
  
- ❖ The framework identifies seven key priority areas for action:
  1. Increasing access to early years and child care programs and services
  2. Ensuring a more affordable early years and child care system
  3. Establishing an early years workforce strategy
  4. Determining a provincial definition of quality in the early years
  5. Developing an approach to promoting inclusion in early years and child care settings
  6. Creating an outcomes and measurement strategy
  7. Increasing public awareness of Ontario's early years and child care system



# Affordability Strategy

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## Action:

- ❖ Ensure a more affordable early years and child care system.
  - This will include working with families and experts to develop a child care affordability strategy that will identify further measures that could lower costs and support parents.

## Progress: Affordability Study

- ❖ In July, 2017 the Ministry of Education commissioned Dr. Gordon Cleveland, an Associate Professor of Economics Emeritus in the Department of Management at the University of Toronto Scarborough, to conduct a study on the best way to improve the affordability of licenced child care in Ontario, and provide a comprehensive analysis of available funding and policy options.
- ❖ In February 2018 a final report entitled “Affordable for All: Making Licensed Child Care Affordable in Ontario” was submitted to the Ministry. The executive summary of the report is currently available at: <http://edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/affordable-for-all-en.pdf>.
- ❖ The report provides 32 recommendations that cover potential policy approaches, implementation considerations and other issues related to transitioning to a new system including:
  - recommendations for reducing parent costs for licensed child care;
  - capital expansion required to support increased demand as affordability increases;
  - recommendations for developing and expanding the workforce;
  - recommendations for rural and home-base child care funding;
  - the need for more flexible hours of care, and;
  - negotiations with the Federal government.
- ❖ Following the report’s recommendations, the Ministry of Education’s strategy for affordability was announced as part of the 2018 Ontario Budget.

# Affordability Strategy, cont'd...

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## Final Report - Key Findings:

- ❖ Child care fees in Ontario range from about \$9,000 to over \$20,000 per child per year for children 0-4 years.
- ❖ Across the system, parents pay between 50% and 63% of the total cost of licensed child care services, amounting to over \$2 billion, and governments pay the rest. The provincial government invests \$1.58 billion in child care in Ontario.
- ❖ The report uses two measures of affordability for child care:
  - **The Family Income Affordability Measure (FIAM)** which calculates the net child care fee for their children 0-6 years as a percent of expected after tax and benefit income. Licensed child care considered to be “affordable” if a family can access it for their 0-6-year-old children for less than 10% of after-tax, after-benefit family income (i.e., less than 10% of family disposable income), for any number of children.
  - **The Caregiving Parent Affordability Measure (CPAM)** which calculates the average net fee parents have to pay as a percent of the after-tax income contribution that the main caregiving parent will make to family income if employed. Licensed child care considered to be “affordable” if a family can access it for their 0-6-year-old children for less than 30% of the after-tax, after-benefit earnings contribution that the main caregiving parent would make to family income if employed (i.e., less than 30% of his/her net contribution).
- ❖ Using FIAM, child care is “affordable” for 19% of families and “unaffordable” or “completely unaffordable” for 81% of families in Ontario.
- ❖ Using CPAM, child care is “affordable” for 22% of families and “unaffordable” or “completely unaffordable” for 78% of families.
- ❖ The report estimates that a 10% reduction in fees will increase demand by 13% and lead to a 5.2% increase in full-time employment of the main caregiving parent.

# Cont'd...Affordability Strategy

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## Final Report - Key Recommendations:

- ❖ The main recommendation in the report is that government should **implement free child care for preschool-aged children** (2.5 to junior kindergarten age) as an immediate priority. Dr. Cleveland estimates that the total cost of this would be \$1.8 billion annually.
- ❖ The report also recommends phasing in **affordability for other age groups** as physical and staffing capacity in the sector are ramped up over the next few years.
- ❖ The report urges the ministry to **fund the existing subsidy system more generously** in the near term and to loosen restrictive regulations on activity requirements under the current subsidy policy.
- ❖ The report also recommends that when additional licensed child care capacity is available and qualified staff shortages have been reduced or eliminated, the child care subsidy system should be replaced with a sliding scale of payments - a \$50K-\$150K sliding scale - to make licensed child care affordable for children of other ages.
- ❖ Family income would determine the percentage that the full fee a family would have to pay. For children other than preschool age, families with earnings less than \$50,000 would pay nothing; families earning over \$150,000 would pay 80% of the full fee. In between, families pay an increasing percentage as family income rises.

# Workforce Strategy

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## Action:

- ❖ Develop a workforce strategy to support recruitment and retention of early years and child care professionals.

## Progress

### **Malatest Report**

- ❖ As part of the government's commitment to establish a workforce strategy, the ministry procured the services of R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd to conduct a workforce study in the Fall of 2017.
- ❖ The ministry has since received the Workforce Study for Early Years and Child Care Employees report in February of 2018.
- ❖ The Report provides the ministry with a set of actionable recommendations to further support early childhood sector professionals in areas relating to compensation, hiring, retention and professional development.
- ❖ Malatest included a total of 7 recommendations in the report:
  - The Ministry should lead a public education campaign about the importance of early childhood education
  - Enhance minimum qualifications to obtain employment in the early years and childcare sector
  - Help define a career path and career map
  - Establish an oversight body for the sector
  - Expand access to professional learning opportunities
  - Develop a wage grid
  - Revamp the funding model
- ❖ As a part of the data collection, Malatest released a survey to the sector. The survey received over 2,300 responses and helped inform the recommendations.

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# Workforce Strategy, cont'd...

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## Workforce Technical Advisory Group

- ❖ Since the last MEYAC meeting, the Technical Advisory Group, a sub-group of MEYAC dedicated to providing focused advice on the strategy, met in December 2017 and March and April 2018.
  - Over the last several months, the Group has provided feedback on potential action areas for inclusion in the workforce strategy, including actions to address compensation, professional development, recruitment and retention and working conditions.

## Workforce Strategy Development

- ❖ The development of the workforce strategy is underway. The Strategy will be informed by the Workforce Study, feedback received from stakeholders, including the Workforce Technical Advisory Group, and research undertaken by the ministry.





# Centres of Excellence for the Early Years and Child Care

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- ❖ Centres of Excellence are funded as part of Ontario's action plan under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and will connect practitioners, education institutions and service providers through innovative professional learning networks across Ontario.
- ❖ In November 2017, the Ministry of Education announced a Call for Proposals for Centres of Excellence.
- ❖ On March 16, 2018, the Ministry announced that the following candidates, who will be working in collaboration with multiple partners from across the province, have been selected to lead the Centres of Excellence:
  - **Provincial Centre of Excellence** - Western University and Ontario Reggio Association;
  - **Indigenous Centre of Excellence** - Ontario Aboriginal Head Start Association and Kenjgewin Teg Education Institute; and
  - **Francophone Centre of Excellence** - Collège Boréal and Association francophone à l'éducation des services à l'enfance de l'Ontario.

# Centres of Excellence, cont'd.

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- ❖ A Secretariat will be established to coordinate and lead province-wide planning amongst the three Centres of Excellence.
- ❖ The Secretariat will have advisory members that balance regional and group-specific needs and strengths of the sector with a vision for supporting professional learning aligned with *How Does Learning Happen?* Invitations were sent to advisory members in March 2018.
- ❖ Centres of Excellence will connect system leaders, practitioners, education institutions, and service providers to:
  - Support alignment with *How Does Learning Happen?* and promote cohesion in pedagogical approaches and practises across early years programs;
  - Build the pedagogical leadership capacity of program staff working in the early years sector through innovative models and/or strategies; and
  - Create linkages to and/or develop professional learning resources that are responsive to the needs of the sector and accessible online.
- ❖ For more information, please visit [www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/CentresofExcellence/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/CentresofExcellence/)

# EarlyON Child and Family Centres

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- ❖ As of January 1, 2018, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) assumed responsibility for EarlyON Child and Family Centres.
- ❖ Service system managers will submit a mid-year report back to the Ministry in Summer 2018 to provide an update on the implementation of local plans and track progress on Ontario's commitments under the *Canada-Ontario Bilateral Agreement and Action Plan on Early Learning and Child Care*.
- ❖ In January 2018, the Ministry publicly launched its new EarlyON website where parents and caregivers can search for centres in their communities by postal code. You may visit the website at <https://www.ontario.ca/earlyon>
- ❖ The Ministry continues to work closely with service system managers to support local planning and transformation efforts in communities.

# EarlyON Child and Family Centres

## New EarlyON Child and Family Website:

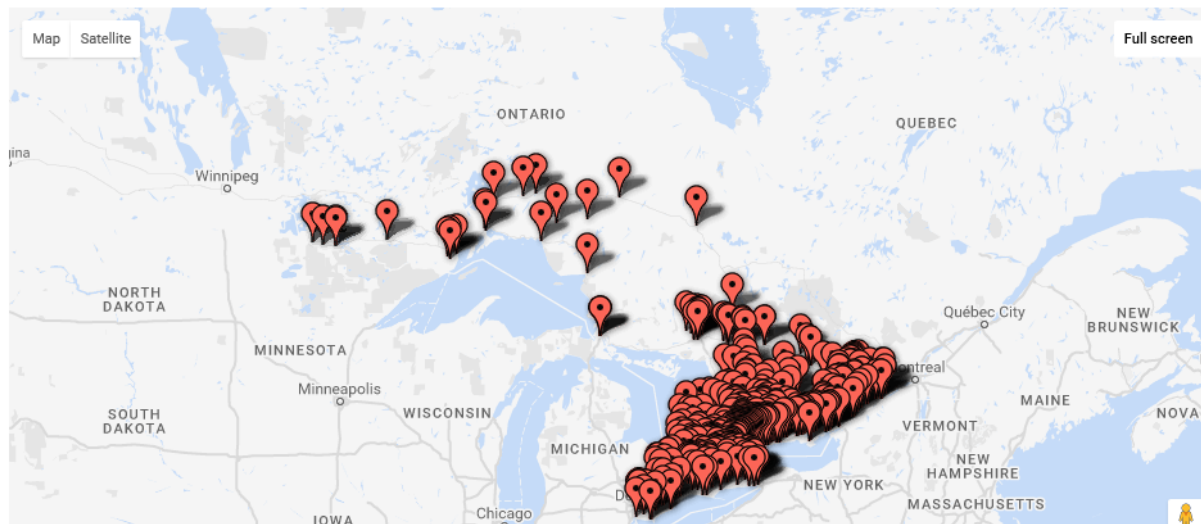
Find an EarlyON child and family centre

EarlyON centres offer free drop-in programs for caregivers and children from birth to 6 years old. You can learn and play with your child, meet people or get advice.



Enter a city, address or complete postal code:

Reset



# The Journey Together – Urban and Rural Areas

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- ❖ Ontario's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation includes up to \$70M over two years to increase the number of culturally relevant licensed child care spaces and child and family programs in urban and rural areas.
  - These programs will be delivered by Indigenous organizations.
- ❖ As a result of the first round of funding:
  - 31 CMSMs/DSSABs were approved for 60 Journey Together projects in urban and rural areas, with 1 proposal pending approval based on revisions/discussions with partners.

## ***Example: Dryden Native Friendship Centre - Kenora***

- ❖ The Kenora District Services Board received \$2.98M over two years for a Child and Family Program/ Licensed Child Care Centre, that will be operated by the Dryden Native Friendship Centre.
- ❖ Journey Together funding will support 30 new child care spaces and create culturally relevant programming for approximately 200 children and families.
- ❖ This program is modelled after Homeward Bound, a province-wide initiative that helps Indigenous single mothers to obtain a degree by providing housing, tuition and child care.

# The Journey Together – On Reserve

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- ❖ Ontario's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation includes up to \$23.5M over two years for new and enhanced child and family programs on reserve.
- ❖ Since Summer 2017, EDU has invested over \$13M to expand and develop new child and family programs in over 40 First Nations.
- ❖ These programs are projected to serve an additional 2,800 children and 2,700 caregivers.
- ❖ Programming rooted in Indigenous culture and language was strongly represented in the submissions. This includes traditional teachings, language immersion, land-based/seasonal activities, and ceremonies and celebrations.
- ❖ Some communities were unable to complete proposals for the first intake and were invited to put forward a submission by March 31, 2018.

## ***M'Chigeeng First Nation:***

- ❖ Located on Manitoulin Island, approximately 2 hours by car from Sudbury, ON, this community received enhanced funding to support access for an estimated 30% more families.
- ❖ M'Chigeeng is expanding access to programs by extending hours and days of operation to meet parents' schedules, and providing mobile services to families with no access to transportation.
- ❖ M'Chigeeng is also using funding to deliver new culture and language-specific programs for children and families

# 2018 Regulatory Amendments under the CCEYA

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- ❖ Given the transformative scope of the legislative framework for the child care and early years sector, the ministry continues to take a multi-year, phased approach to the development and implementation of new/amended regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA).
- ❖ In August 2015, a first round of regulatory amendments came into effect including many that were carried over from the *Day Nurseries Act*, as well as changes to strengthen health and safety, enable the use of new enforcement tools (administrative penalties), and respond to recommendations from the Ombudsman and Auditor General.
- ❖ In May 2016, a second round of regulations under the CCEYA were filed including changes to support system planning, licensing clarity, and tiered licensing. Additionally, amendments were made to the *Education Act* regarding before and after school programs for 6-12 year olds.
- ❖ In August 2016, new requirements were introduced to prohibit licensed child care centres and home child care agencies from charging fees in order to place a child on a wait list for care.
- ❖ The latest phase of regulatory changes commenced in October 2017 with the posting of proposed regulatory amendments on the Regulatory Registry website. Many of the proposed amendments were informed by feedback that the government heard from the early years and child care sector.

# 2018 Regulatory Amendments, cont'd.

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- ❖ The regulatory changes focused on six key areas:
  1. Reducing administrative burden for licensees, child care staff, home child care providers, and families by removing unnecessary or duplicative standards;
  2. Building on the progressive enforcement model;
  3. Clarifying requirements for authorized recreational and skill building program providers;
  4. Aligning funding regulations with current funding policy and practices;
  5. Revoking “schedule 2” age groupings and associated regulations; and
  6. Making technical amendments, including language updates.
  
- ❖ During the 60 day consultation period, the ministry received 162 submissions and conducted targeted stakeholder outreach with MEYAC, working groups, First Nations Children’s Supervisor Network, and OMSSA. Feedback was also received from other ministries and groups such as local public health units.
  
- ❖ New/amended regulations were filed on March 1, 2018 and are available on the government’s e-Laws website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>
  
- ❖ To support understanding and compliance with the new/amended regulations, the ministry updated the child care centre and home child care Licensing Manuals and continues to add new resources to the Licensing Kit. These resources are all available on-line.



# Early Years Capital Update

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- ❖ In December 2017 the Ministry announced approved projects under the Early Years Capital Program. In total, more than \$240 million has been allocated to support 200 projects totalling 8,440 licensed spaces and 18 EarlyON Child and Family rooms, all located in schools.
- ❖ In total, the government has now allocated funding for more than 15,000 school-based child care spaces since 2017.
- ❖ In late 2017 the Ministry launched the Community Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program. More than \$187 million will be invested over the next two years to support CMSMs and DSSABs with the construction of community-based child care and EarlyON Child and Family projects. Information about this year's approved projects is expected in April 2018.
- ❖ The Expert Panel on Early Years Capital Benchmarks will provide advice and recommendations to the Ministry on early years capital requirements, benchmarks, and funding methodology in schools in spring 2018.
- ❖ The Working Group on Accommodation Costs will provide advice and recommendations to the ministry concerning child care and child and family program accommodation cost transparency and methodology in schools, and best practices related to sustainability for early years providers in schools. Recommendations are expected in spring 2018.

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# **Children's Services Forum: Ontario Municipal Social Services Association**

**April 17, 2018**

Early Years and Child Care Division  
Ministry of Education



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# Purpose

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To provide an overview/update on:

- The Ontario Child Care and Early Years Program and Services Plan (Service System Plans)
- The Approach to Inclusion
- Approach to Outcome Measurement in Early Years and Child Care



# The Ontario Child Care and Early Years Program and Services Plan



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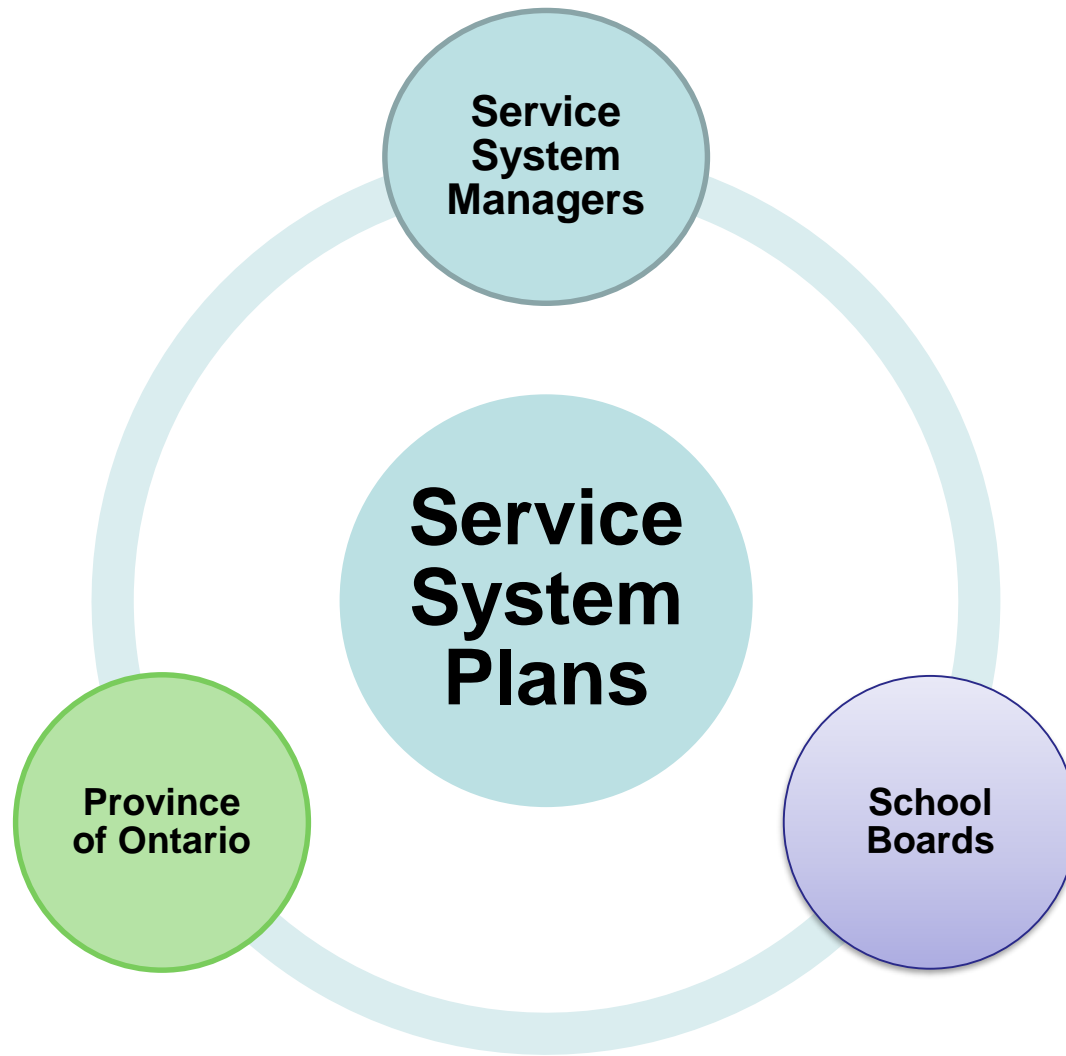
# Context

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- The province recognizes the critical role service system managers play in soliciting and maintaining in-depth knowledge about their community's needs, planning and managing the system, identifying and addressing services gaps, and supporting service coordination.
- Service system managers, in partnership with families, service providers, school boards and community agencies, lead locally-based planning and development to support an integrated approach to child care and early years services as well as for social assistance and housing support that respond to the needs of the community.
- The ability to strengthen the quality of child care and early years experiences and enhance system integration requires the strategic leadership of service system managers to initiate, sustain and monitor local planning and development to achieve Ontario's vision for the early years.
- On May 9, 2016, the ministry filed new and revised regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*. Changes made included clarifying the powers and duties of service system managers and providing adequate transition times to develop service plans.
- In August 2017, the ministry released the [Ontario Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan Resource](#) to support service system managers with the development and implementation of Service System Plans.

# Working Together

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# Legislative/Regulatory Requirements under the CCEYA

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Effective 2019, service system managers will be required to develop Service System Plans in accordance with provincial requirements.

The CCEYA requires that service system managers:

- Have a child care and early years programs and services plan
- Address the matters of provincial interest under section 49 of the CCEYA;
- Consult and cooperate with school boards and other persons or entities prescribed, in the development and implementation of service plans;
- Implement service plans that are approved by the council of the municipality, or by the members of a DSSAB;
- Update service system plans at least every five years and post approved plans on the service system manager's website;
- New or revised plans that have been approved by the council of the municipality or by the members of a district social services administration board must be available to the public and sent to the Ministry by **June 30, 2019**.

# Key Components of the Service System Plan

- Service planning should be done in the context of the full range of co-ordinated child care and early years services for children and families.
- Plans should address child care and early years services and include:
  - Environmental scan results that assess current and future child care and early years service gaps and opportunities;
  - A description of the community planning processes that was used to inform the development of the plan and a commitment to consult, at regular or relevant intervals, through the life of the plan;
  - Service planning should be integrated and done in the context of the full range of coordinated child care and early years services, including EarlyON and Journey Together;
  - Strategic priorities and intended outcomes that are responsive to community needs and align with Ontario's vision for child care and early years and provincial interest;
  - A measureable and action-oriented implementation plan that describes how strategic priorities and outcomes will be met; and
  - Accountability methods including the public posting of plans and reporting in accordance with the CCEYA.



# Service System Plan: Outcomes

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- Service system plans are expected to identify the intended outcomes associated with each of the four components of Ontario's vision for the early years and child care. For example:

## ***Accessible***

- Community programs and service providers are increasingly aware of families' needs for child care and early years services within the community.

## ***Responsive***

- Programs and services reflect diverse needs of children and families in the community, and provide families with more choice and flexibility for their child care options.

## ***Affordable***

- Community service providers enhance engagement and collaboration with broader community service providers, school boards, early years partners, primary care providers, parents and caregivers.

## ***High-Quality***

- Programming and pedagogy is consistent with *How Does Learning Happen? (HDLH?): Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*, and reflects the view of children as competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. Note: The ministry will engage with sector partners to co-develop a definition of program quality for 2019.
- Indicators should be used to track progress towards achieving the intended outcomes.

# Service System Plan: Implementation

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The implementation plan is an action plan within the service system plan that provides an overview of how progress will be achieved over a given time period. It is expected that service system managers include in their implementation plan:

1. **Strategic Priorities and Outcomes:** specific objectives and measurement indicators that relate to identified community priorities and provincial outcomes.
  2. **Actions:** how community priorities and outcomes will be achieved through a consultative and transparent process. Actions should consider the time period the plan applies to (i.e. a 3 year plan or a 5 year plan).
  3. **Timelines:** estimated timelines for achieving the identified priorities and outcomes.
  4. **Additional Context:** supplemental information that may contribute to the implementation of the service system plan.
- Service system managers can submit updates to the ministry regarding their implementation plan or the service system plan more broadly as changes or updates arise throughout the lifespan of their service system plan.
  - Consistent service system plans across the province would provide the province with an opportunity to analyze the impacts of programs and services, identify progress and service gaps, and foster evidence-based decision making that is transparent and supports public confidence.

# Updates

**Jeff Butler, Director**, Early Years and Child Care Policy Branch,  
Ministry of Education

**Maxx Hollott-Phillipe**, Acting Director, Financial Accountability  
and Data Analysis Branch, Ministry of Education

**Abby Dwosh**, Manager, Planning & Program Transformation  
Unit, Ministry of Education

# Update on the Approach to Inclusion in Early Years and Child Care



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# Where We Are

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- The province has been supporting the access to licensed child care programs for children with special needs since the 1970s.
- The Ministry of Education funds Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs), District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) and First Nations for *Special Needs Resourcing* (SNR) to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings, including home child care, and authorized recreation programs.
- SNR funding may be used to:
  - Hire or acquire the services of a resource teacher/consultant or supplemental staff where necessary (including salary and benefits) to support the inclusion of children with special needs;
  - Provide training for staff in regulated child care settings working with children with special needs to support inclusion; and
  - Purchase or lease specialized/adaptive equipment and supplies to support children with special needs.

# What We Heard

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During the development of the *Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework* stakeholders, including parents, voiced concerns related to:

- **Access:** Parents face challenges finding reliable services for children with special needs, particularly in northern and rural/remote communities.
- **Coordination:** Children's transitions during the day between school and child care need to be coordinated and consistent and that service navigation could be improved.
- **Supports/Services:** Increased supports/services for children with special needs are required across the province as well as more capacity building for early years/child care staff and providers. Children with medical needs in particular, lack support in licensed child care.

# Where We're Going

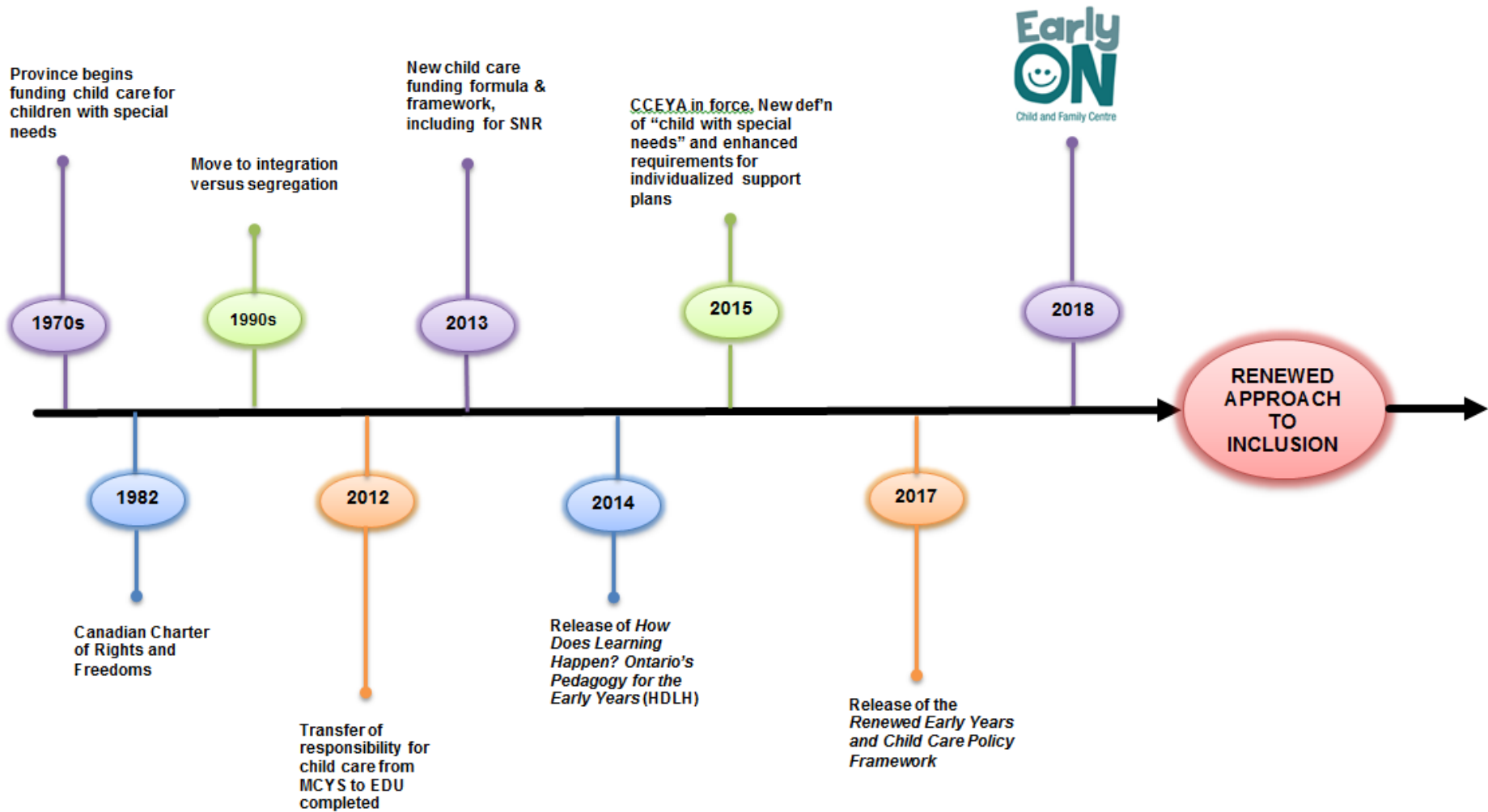
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- In response to these issues/concerns, the *Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework* set out a number of commitments related to inclusion to better support children and their families in early years (e.g. EarlyON Centres) and child care settings:

## **Going Forward, the Ministry of Education will:**

- Undertake a comprehensive review of current approaches to supporting children with extra needs in early years settings.
- Engage with a broad range of stakeholders and ministry partners to develop a renewed approach aligned with other related government initiatives.
- Release a renewed approach to supporting inclusion.
- In preparation for the release of the renewed approach to inclusion, undertake:
  1. Comprehensive SNR review
  2. Broad-reaching stakeholder engagement
  3. Cross-ministry collaboration

# Timeline: Supporting Children with Special Needs in Early Years and Licensed Child Care Settings








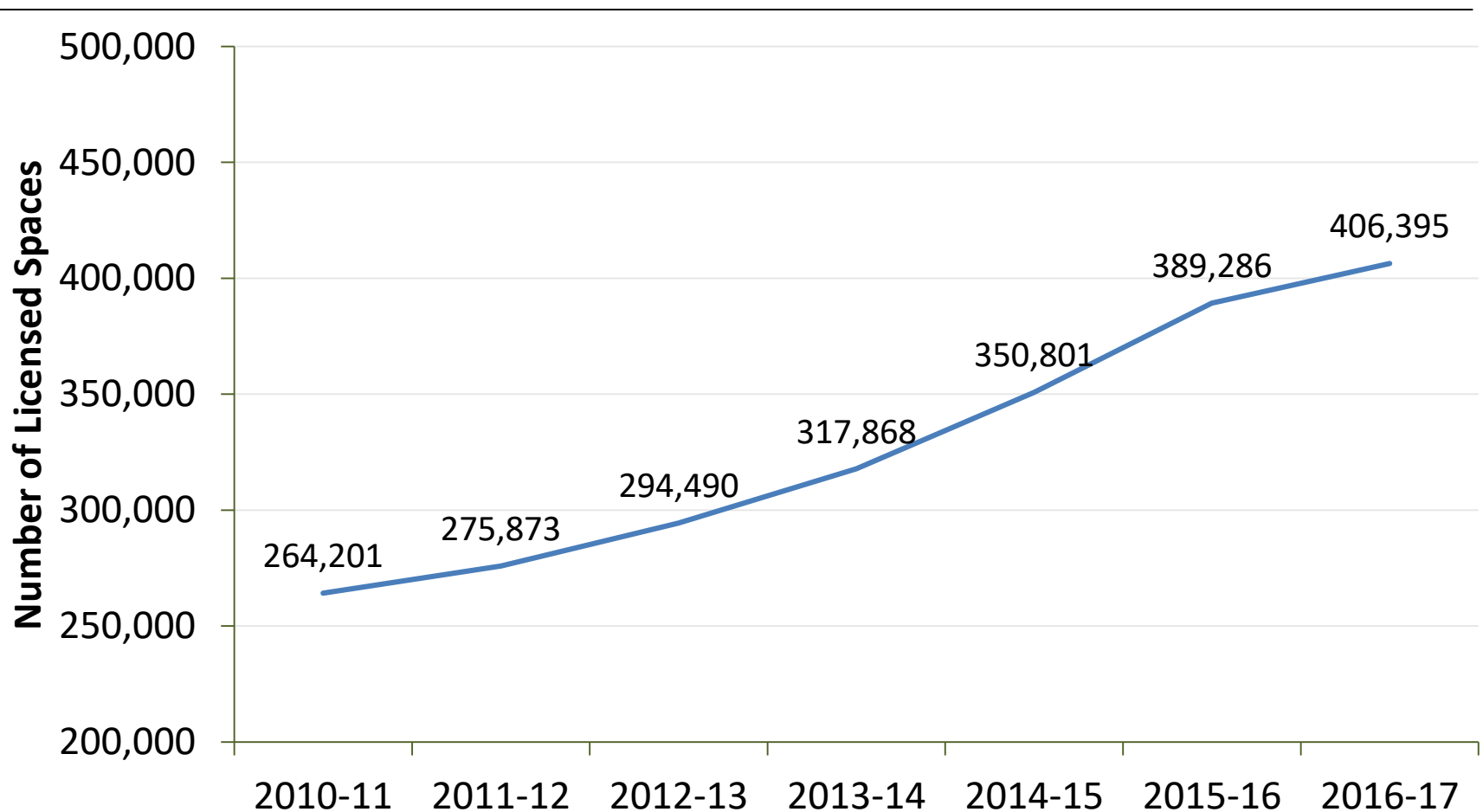
# **Update on the Approach to Outcome Measurement in Early Years and Child Care**

# Where We Are

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- As part of the Renewed Framework released in 2017, the ministry is developing a five-year outcomes strategy to help ensure that policy decisions on the early years and child care system are well-informed and based on evidence.
- The outcome measurement approach includes:
  -  Data collection and management
  -  Research
  -  Outcomes framework and reporting

# Growth in Licensed Child Care Spaces\*



\* As of March 31 of each fiscal year

# Data Collection and Management

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Program-level and child-level data about early years programs as well as children's participation in child care and early years programs.

## Program-level

- Licensed Child Care (ongoing)
  - Child Care Licensing System
  - Licensed Child Care Operators Survey
  - Ontario Child Care Management System (OCCMS)
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres (2018-19 Fiscal Year)

## Child-level

- Early Development Instrument (EDI) – Cycle 5 (2017-18 school year)
- Early Years Experiences at Kindergarten Registration (2018-19 school year)

# Data Collection: Child-level

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## Early Development Instrument (EDI)

- A questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers that gathers information about children's development in their early years.
- The provincial EDI data collection occurs over a three year cycle:
  - Year 1: Planning for data collection (2016-17)
  - Year 2: Data collection and analysis (2017-18)
  - Year 3: Reporting and knowledge mobilization (2018-19)

## Early Years Experiences at Kindergarten Registration

- Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, school boards are collecting children's individual child care and early years participation data, which can be linked to their Ontario Education Number to help:
  - Improve our understanding of how program participation relates to developmental health, well-being and longer term academic success.
  - Support more seamless experiences for children and families as they transition from the early years to kindergarten.

# Data Collection: OCCMS

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- OCCMS is used by 46 of 47 service system managers to administer child care fee subsidies and other child care funding (e.g. wage enhancement grants).
- Sector feedback from 30 CMSMs/DSSABs indicates that OCCMS is not sufficient for their needs. Ministry commitments that span multiple years will push OCCMS beyond its current capabilities.
  - Ministry and CMSM/DSSAB Needs
    - Ministry investments in child care and EarlyON centres are increasing. The ministry needs to maintain strong oversight and be financially accountable for these investments.
    - CMSMs/DSSABs are performing time consuming manual processes that need to be streamlined so that administrative burden is reduced and they can focus their efforts on service system planning for improved services.
  - Current OCCMS Limitations
    - The ministry cannot leverage the OCCMS data for financial accountability reporting as there is no centralized repository and insufficient data is being collected due to system limitations.
    - The reporting and administrative burden on CMSMs/DSSABs cannot be minimized due to system limitations.
    - There is insufficient support for service system planning as OCCMS only contains child care fee subsidy data.

# OCCMS: What We Heard

- Sector consultations in late 2017 and early 2018 included discussions at the OCCMS Reference Group with service system managers and a sector feedback questionnaire. The sector reported the following areas of critical improvement:

## Reduce Manual Processes

### 1. EFIS Streamlined Reporting

- *‘Collaboration and integration with EFIS reports’*
- *‘Improved and streamlined reporting to match the EFIS reporting requirements’*
- *‘Simplify the OCCMS reporting to EFIS process’*

### 2. EarlyON Administration

- *‘EarlyON data collection’*
- *‘Electronic solution for sign-in’*
- *‘Additional EarlyON data rather than having to manually enter the data to populate reports’*

### 3. Streamlined Contract Management

- *‘Currently all contract management is done manually’*
- *‘Currently spend 20% of time each day for manual processing of letters, contracts and signoffs’*

## Support Service System Planning

### 4. Service System Planning

- *‘Reports that support forecasting, trends and projections for service system planning’*
- *‘Widen the capture of data to include all children in child care’*
- *‘Forecasting, trends and projections for service planning’*

- The ministry is exploring options for transforming OCCMS with a smooth, phased implementation that will minimize disruption to the sector. The sector will be further engaged after the option analysis and implementation approach is approved.

# Research

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In 2017-18, the ministry completed two research studies to support future policy development:

- Affordability Study
- Workforce Study

Research plans include studies to better understand quality in child care and early years programs.



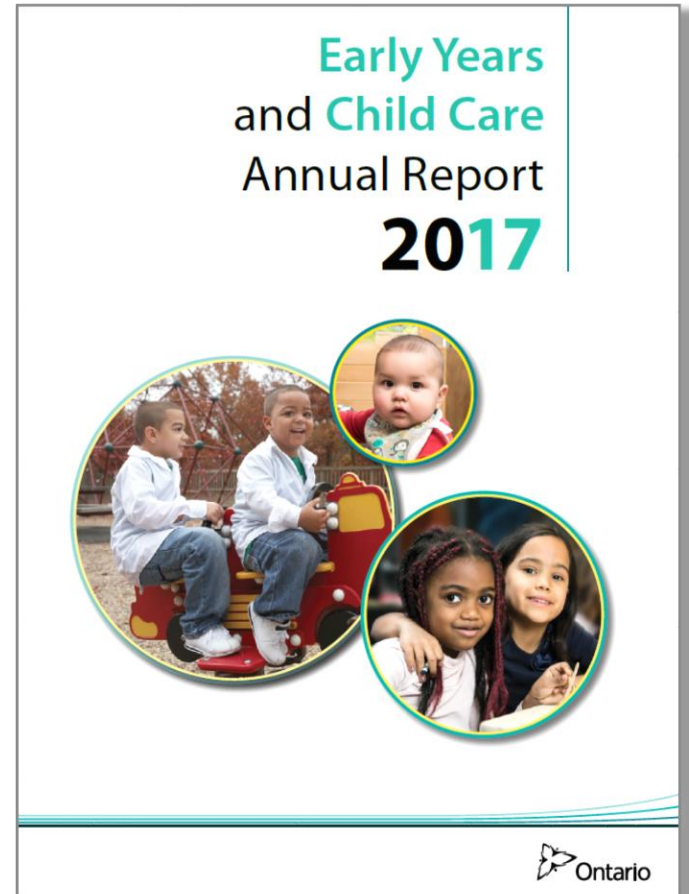
# 2017 Reporting

## Ontario EYCC Annual Report

- The first annual report was posted publicly on the Ministry of Education's website in October 2017.
- The annual report provides a snapshot of Ontario's child care system and how it has changed in recent years.

## Canada-Ontario ELCC Report

- On June 16, 2017, Ontario was the first province to sign a three-year bilateral agreement with the federal government.
- Under the Agreement, the province is required to report annually on indicators to the federal government.



# Where We're Going

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- Developing five-year outcome measurement framework
  - identifying outcomes and indicators
- Enhancing data collections
  - improving the child care survey, OCCMS, EDI, EYE@K
- Sharing data
  - producing a comprehensive annual report
  - posting datasets on the open data catalogue
  - establishing data sharing agreements with partners

# Discussion Questions

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## **Service System Planning Process:**

1. What process is your CMSM or DSSAB using to develop service system plans?
2. How will service system plans support your local communities?

## **Approach to Inclusion:**

1. What is needed to improve access and coordination for children with extra needs in the early years/child care system?
2. How can this process be facilitated by the ministry and service system managers?

## **Approach to Outcome Measurement:**

1. What have been your experiences with initiatives related to the development and/or use of an outcomes and measurement framework?
2. Are there any other areas of research the ministry could consider to better support our collective understanding of the sector?



## Amazing Team Work Around the World

# Closing Remarks

Before we go

# OMSSA's Upcoming Events

## **Leadership Symposium**

*May 28 – 30, 2018 – Windsor – Registration Open!*

## **Employment Forum**

*September 17– Kingston*

## **Integration Forum**

*October 17 – London*

## **Policy Conference**

*December 4-5, 2018 - Toronto*