

August 26, 2024

Hon. Jill Dunlop

Minister of Education

5th Floor, 438 University Ave.

Toronto, Ontario

M5G 2K8

Re: OMSSA Special Needs Resourcing Position Paper

Dear Minister Dunlop,

The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and its Members are pleased to share with you the attached position paper on Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) funding and support for the licensed child care system.

Since the introduction of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system, services for children who require additional inclusion supports related to their cognitive, physical, social, emotional, communicative needs, or overall development, have been a growing concern, which is why OMSSA was pleased that the Ministry identified children with special needs as a key population to consider within its access and inclusion CWELCC pillars and through the 2023 Ontario Access and Inclusion Framework.

However, to date, Service System Managers have not been engaged by the Ministry on the delivery of SNR within the context of CWELCC and the funding formula.

In order to support the Ministry's understanding of the current state of SNR services across the province, OMSSA has solicited input from Ontario's 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) related to SNR service provision.

OMSSA invited the CMSMs/DSSABs to submit discussion papers with responses to questions on their local SNR service models, outcome and evaluation approaches, strengths, challenges, needs, and recommendations.

The attached paper summarizes the 43 submissions OMSSA received and includes three key recommendations to the Ministry for the ongoing funding, management and delivery of SNR services.

To further support the Ministry, we are attaching the 43 individual submissions from the CMSMs/DSSABs so that you may complete your own analysis in addition to reviewing the attached paper.

You will see that the recommendations include opportunities for collaboration with your partner ministries including the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. We're hopeful that you can work together to address the opportunities and barriers that our members have identified.

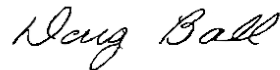
We would be pleased to meet with you to go through the details of the report and recommendations.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,



Henry Wall
President



Doug Ball
Executive Director

CC:

Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister of Education

Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education

Hon. Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges and Universities

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services