

**Ministry of Education
Early Years and Child Care
Division**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation
Division de la petite enfance et
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July 20, 2017

Dear Early Years Partners,

On June 6 we were excited to share with you [Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework \(2017\)](#), which contains a ground-breaking set of initiatives to help build an accessible, affordable, and high quality early years and child care system that is responsive to the needs of children aged 0-12 and their families.

As you know, to address access and affordability, the province moved forward immediately by announcing a \$200 million investment in the 2017 Budget to support access to licensed child care for 24,000 more children 0-4 years old. This funding, includes capital and operating investments that will support new child care fee subsidies, expand access to affordable licensed child care spaces, and reduce fee subsidy waitlists to help parents access quality child care.

In addition to these measures, the province is undertaking a comprehensive review of the current child care funding approach, with a special focus on improving access to fee subsidies. As part of this review, the government committed to appoint an expert to conduct an affordability study. The study will provide advice and support the development of a child care affordability strategy that will identify further measures that could lower costs and support parents.

Today I am pleased to announce that Dr. Gordon Cleveland will be leading an affordability study and providing recommendations on how to improve access to fee subsidies and achieve a more affordable early years and child care system in Ontario. Over the coming months the ministry will continue to engage with our delivery partners and stakeholders to further inform the affordability strategy.

Dr. Gordon Cleveland is Associate Professor of Economics Emeritus in the Department of Management at the University of Toronto Scarborough and has recently been Honorary Senior Fellow at the Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne. He is collaborating investigator with a research team of educators and psychologists at University of Quebec at Montreal and Laval University studying early education and child care services in Quebec.

With co-authors, Dr. Cleveland has studied many aspects of economic and policy issues relevant to early childhood education and care. He has published studies on the costs and benefits of universal good-quality child care services in Canada, the financing of child care systems in OECD countries, the effect of child care costs on mothers'

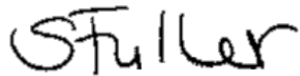
employment, the determinants of the wages of child care workers, the determinants of quality in early childhood care services, the structure of costs in early childhood centres, and the impact of non-profit status on the production of quality in child care.

Dr. Cleveland recently led a year-long project estimating child care demand relationships in Canada and applying these to build a model that the City of Toronto uses to predict future demand for licensed child care and to conduct policy simulations.

Dr. Cleveland's expertise will be valuable to the work of the ministry and will help us achieve our objective of an affordable early years and child care system in Ontario.

I am excited for the work ahead and our continued partnership with you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Shannon Fuller
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years and Child Care Division