

May 2016

Dear Child Care Operators,

As you know, on May 9, 2016, the Ministry of Education (MEDU) posted new regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act* and *Education Act*. I am writing to draw your attention to some of the key changes that licensees should be aware of:

- Effective July 1, 2016, child care **licensing fee schedules** are changing for new licences, renewals, and revisions.
- Effective August 29, 2016 the requirement for each home child care agency to employ **one full-time home child care visitor for every 25 home child care premises** will be removed. However, the City of Toronto reserves the right to maintain the 1:25 cap for agencies with a contract with the City.
- Effective August 29, 2016, a director may give approval for a child care centre to use **mixed-age grouping** for any licensed age group.
- Effective August 29, 2016, the **definitions of a "serious occurrence"** are changing.
- By the same date, licensees will be required to conduct an **annual analysis of all serious occurrences** to identify trends and keep records of actions taken.
- Effective August 29, 2016, the **maximum term of a child care licence** will increase from one to two years to allow for tiered licensing. Eligible child care centres will be assigned to Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 based on their compliance history over the last three years. A centre's tier will determine the type of inspection the ministry will conduct, as well as the duration of the licence that may be issued.
- Effective January 1, 2017, new **administrative penalties** will be in place for contraventions of the *Child Care and Early Years Act* or its regulations. The regulations set out specific contraventions and dollar amounts of the penalties. The licensee must pay the administrative penalty within 30 days or submit a request for review within 15 days.
- **Current requirements for age groupings, ratios, and group sizes and staff qualifications** will remain in place. Starting September 1, 2017 a new optional model (called Schedule 2) will also be piloted alongside the current requirements. Licensees may decide to apply to the Ministry of Education for a Schedule 2 licence and will be approved based on a set of criteria. More information on applying to this optional model is expected by fall 2016.
- A **new Family Grouping** will also be available as of September 1, 2017. This group will have a maximum of 15 children 0 – 12 years old, with no more than six under two years of age.

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- For the 2017-18 school year, changes to the existing regulation on **extended day and third party programs** will support the delivery of before-and after-school programs for 4-12 year olds.

As always, Toronto Children's Services is committed to working with the Ministry of Education and with child care providers through this period of change. I encourage you to review the *Child Care and Early Years Act*, *Education Act*, and the regulations under these Acts for the complete details of all the changes. Please visit the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/infosheets.html> for more information, or be in touch with your MEDU program advisor if you have questions about any of the changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Baxter-Trahair".

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
General Manager
Toronto Children's Services