



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnipeg, Manitoba – August 11, 2020

### **DUE TO PANDEMIC, MCCA CALLS FOR A HALT TO THE ONLINE CHILD CARE REGULATION CONSULTATION**

The Manitoba Child Care Association (MCCA) is requesting the Government of Manitoba pause its online consultation to implement regulatory changes some of which are in support of Bill 9, The Community Child Care Standards Amendment Act, and other changes which appear to be new.

The proposed changes to the regulations are to “...simplify regulatory requirements to eliminate unnecessary duplication, reduce red tape and significantly reduce administrative burden for licensed child care providers related to licensing requirements.”

Included in the anticipated changes to the regulations:

- Repealing of enhanced nursery school funding
- Fees for unapproved spaces
- Addition of new definition and criteria of funding eligibility for children with exceptional additional support needs
- Extending re-licensing of approved facilities to every three years
- Allowing exemptions to licenses for programs that may be limited to community standards

“The timing of this significant regulatory review is not reasonable. As Dr. Roussin has repeatedly communicated, responding to the pandemic is the first priority for our government and for all Manitobans, including those who use or provide early learning and child care programs,” says MCCA’s President, Caryn LaFleche. “It is unrealistic and unfair to expect individuals to have the time to give thorough consideration to the proposed changes. Early learning and child care programs’ main priority is how to provide quality, nurturing child care while maintaining the safety and health of the children, families and staff during this time.”

The recommended changes (30 pages) can be found on the Manitoba Regulatory Consultation Portal <https://reg.gov.mb.ca/detail/2937833>. In the midst of a pandemic, Manitobans have been asked to provide comments and feedback by August 12, 2020. MCCA has written a formal letter to Minister Stefanson, seeking clarification on certain amendments, as well as highlighting questions and concerns.

The Manitoba Child Care Association is a membership funded organization that advocates for a quality system of child care and works to advance early childhood education as a profession.

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Media contact: Jodie Kehl, MCCA Executive Director, 204-336-5060  
Caryn LaFleche, MCCA President, 204-781-1965