



PETITION

We call on the Ontario Government to:

- Immediately introduce a moratorium on new licenses for commercial child care operators;
- Support Bill 26 to ensure that new child care licenses are restricted to not-for-profit child care providers;
- Meet its Pay Equity obligations to early childhood educators and child care workers to improve the living standards for workers who are often underpaid and undervalued;
- Fund a comprehensive, affordable early learning and child care system, modeled on Québec's \$7/day early learning and child care system.

| Name | City/Postal | Signature | E-Mail | Check to Receive Action Alerts |
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Name of Child Care Centre _____
 Please return to OCBCC, 206-489 College Street, Toronto, ON, M6G 1A5, fax 416-538-6737

cope343



Our Vision:

We have a vision of universal, quality, affordable child care for every child in Ontario.



A new child care company – 123 Busy Beavers, has incorporated in Ontario. The company has been linked to ABC Learning Centres, the world's largest child care company, based in Australia and traded on the Australian stock exchange.

NDP MPP Andrea Horwath has introduced legislation, Bill 26, to restrict new child care licenses to not-for-profit operators, while renewing licenses for existing for-profit operators. Bill 26 ensures that public money spent on child care goes to children, not profit, thereby making Ontario a less lucrative market for 123 Busy Beavers.

A New Threat to Child Care – 123 Busy Beavers

Accessibility and Quality: In Australia, communities have suffered. Quality has suffered with complaints about health and safety, and the treatment of child care workers and Early Childhood Educators. Not-for-profit child care centres in Ontario typically spend 85% of their budget on wages. ABC spends as little as 50% - meaning profits at the expense of Early Childhood Educators.

Affordability: Since 1990, child care costs have risen by 123% in Australia while household income went up by only 62%. While government spending in Australia doubled in the 1990's, Australia's large child care corporations are reporting booming profits and expanding in the US, the UK and now Canada.

Public money goes to profit for private operators: 40% of ABC's profits in Australia come from government revenues. Widespread expansion of foreign-owned corporate child care, will reduce the chances of a comprehensive Canadian child care program as government funds go to private profits instead of a child care system.

They take over child care: In 1991, Australia was like Ontario – about 80% of the of the child care providers were public and not-for-profit. Today, commercial for-profit child care accounts for 70% of all of Australia's child care.

It's Time for Public Child Care... We call on the Ontario Government to

- Support Bill 26 to ensure that new child care licenses are restricted to public, non-profit and First Nations operators.
- The Ontario Government needs to resume pay equity payments to child care workers and ECE's as many jobs are still underpaid and undervalued. Public child care needs to be supported with public money.