



YMCA of Niagara
3-300 Bunting Road,
St, Catharines, ON L2M 7X3
ymcaofniagara.org

YMCA of Niagara Welcomes the Ontario-Federal Child Care Agreement

Our charity is committed to doing our part to increase access to affordable, high-quality licensed child care

Niagara – March 28, 2022 – The YMCA of Niagara applauds the new federal-provincial child care agreement. Our charity is thrilled to see that a long-awaited decision has been reached because child care is essential to families, the economy, and our collective prosperity.

Child care is a critical component of community infrastructure, an important enabler of women's workforce participation and a crucial driver of economic recovery. The signing of the agreement today, signals a commitment to investing in young children that will produce successful outcomes for families. Ontario could not be the best place to live, work and raise a family without a federal-provincial child care agreement.

Said Steven Chuang, CEO of the YMCA of Niagara :*" Our YMCA is delighted with this agreement, to make child care more affordable and more accessible to working families. The federal-provincial child care agreement will benefit our children and communities for generations to come."*

A well trained and well compensated child care workforce will be critical to this plan. We are encouraged to see considerations for workforce included within this agreement and we will continue to call for a comprehensive strategy to support the recruitment and retention of early child care educators. Government funding can help the YMCA and other child care operators to attract, train and retain child care educators.

Access to licensed, high-quality child care gives parents, and women in particular, a choice to enter or return to the workforce knowing that their children will be in enriching, nurturing and safe child care environments. High-quality child care programs contribute to healthy early childhood development while improving school readiness and lifelong employment outcomes.

Our YMCA is looking forward to working with all levels of government and our community partners to bring this agreement to life. For more information on our child care services and other ways the YMCA helps people in our community become stronger, please visit <https://ymcaofniagara.org/>

For media inquiries please direct your request to:

Cathyann White
Vice President
Marketing and Communications
Cathyann.white@niagara.ymca.ca

905-359-2585

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