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August 1, 2015

To Ontario Mayors and Councils,

We are writing to ask you and your council to proclaim **Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day, October 8, 2015**, a day of recognition for the many people who work providing child care in your community.

This year will mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our awareness day that recognizes the education, skills, commitment and dedication of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and child care staff, and each year is proclaimed by municipalities and school boards across Ontario.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and other labour and community partners are asking that **Thursday, October 8, 2015**, be proclaimed as **Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day** in accordance with the attached resolution.

Many groups are recognized by way of municipal resolution. Such a day allows us to acknowledge the important contributions of child care workers and ECEs. Our children, families and communities benefit from the work of child care workers and ECEs. *Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day* allows us to highlight the important work of these professionals.

Even if your council does not issue official proclamations, there are many ways for your municipality to participate in this special day. Your council could sponsor a public announcement, display our posters and distribute our buttons. Many municipalities also organize events and contests for the day or have councilors or the mayor participate in events hosted by child care centres within the municipality. A list of ideas and examples is attached.

We would like to acknowledge those municipalities celebrating child care workers and ECEs across Ontario on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Let us know whether your municipality is participating in the recognition day and we will add your municipality to our list of proclamations. Please direct any correspondence on proclamations and/or celebration activities to the attention of Lori-Ann Tanzola, by mail: CUPE, 80 Commerce Valley Drive East, Markham, Ontario, L3T 0B2 or by fax at 905-739-4001.

Thank you for your consideration.

In solidarity,

Fred Hahn  
President, CUPE Ontario Division

Sheila Olan-Maclean  
President, OCBCC

cc: CMSMs/DSSABs

us:cope491

# **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day**

**October 8, 2015**

## **Resolution**

**Whereas** years of research confirms the benefits of high quality child care for young children's intellectual, emotional, social and physical development and later life outcomes; and

**Whereas** child care promotes the well-being of children and responds to the needs of parents, child care workers and the broader community by supporting quality of life so that citizens can fully participate in and contribute to the economic and social life of their community; and

**Whereas** Many studies show trained and knowledgeable Early Childhood Educators and child care staff are the most important element in quality child care, and that good wages and working conditions are associated with higher job satisfaction and morale, lower staff turnover which leads to high quality education and care;

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that October 8, 2015 be designated the 15th annual "Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day" in recognition of the education, dedication and commitment of child care workers to children, their families and quality of life of the community.