



August 1, 2016

Re: 16th Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day, October 26, 2016

To Ontario mayors and councils,

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and other labour and community partners around Ontario have announced Wednesday, October 26, 2016 as the 16th annual Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day, a day of recognition for the many people who work providing early learning and child care services in your community. **We are writing to ask that you and your Council consider proclaiming Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in your municipality. A sample proclamation is attached.**

This annual awareness day 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. 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.

Even if your council does not issue official proclamations, there are many ways for your municipality to participate in celebrating this special day:

- Your council could sponsor a public announcement;
- Display our posters and distribute our buttons;
- Many municipalities 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 document of further ideas and examples is attached.

We would love to acknowledge those municipalities celebrating child care workers and ECEs across Ontario on October 26, 2016. Let us know how your municipality is participating in the recognition day and we will add your municipality to our list of proclamations and celebrations.

Please direct any correspondence on proclamations and/or celebration activities to the attention of Carolyn Ferns, by mail: Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, 489 College St., Suite 206, Toronto, ON M6G 1A5, by fax at 416-538-6737, or by email at: carolyn@childcareontario.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheila Olan-Maclean
President, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Fred Hahn
President, CUPE Ontario Division

CHILD CARE WORKER & ECE APPRECIATION DAY 2016

16TH ANNIVERSARY – OCTOBER 26TH, 2016

*This year marks the 16th annual Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day, which will be held on **Thursday October 26th 2016**. On this day we recognize the hard work, meaningful care and continuous learning these educators provide children every day. This year's theme is **SHAPING OUR FUTURE** in recognition of the essential role that educators play in the lives of our youngest learners.*

Ideas to celebrate the day!

Municipalities

- Place an ad in the local newspaper announcing Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day.
- Take nominations from local child care centres for outstanding staff to be recognized by the Mayor through a letter, announcement or event.
- Encourage local councillors to tour child care centres to find out more about this important work. Event could also generate media coverage.
- Organize a community-wide celebration to recognize individual staff or centres and programs.

School Boards

- Insert the day on the monthly calendar of October.
- Arrange to have the day announced on the PA the morning on Thursday October 8th.
- Encourage classes of grade 7 and 8 students to visit the child care centre. Students may ask the educators about their role as an ECE.
- Insert the day on the monthly calendar of October.
- Set up a wall of fame where parents have the opportunity to say thank you to each staff.

Child care centres

- Host a pizza lunch for the staff. Give each staff member a certificate of appreciation.
- Have every staff in the centre vote on one child care champion of the year.
- Set up a board near the entrance of the centre where parents may write thank you notes.
- Have a sign on the door of the centre saying, "Today is the 16th annual Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day".

Show ECEs your appreciation on social media

- Share photos of how you're celebrating Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day.
- Use the hashtags **#CCWAD** or **#ECEappreciation**
- Share an event prior to the date to raise awareness and get more people involved.
- Write a kind message about a child care provider you know.

Please contact the OCBCC to order posters and buttons.

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Phone: 416-538-0628 x 2 / toll-free 1-800-594-7514 x 2

Email: campaigns@childcareontario.org

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