

Supporting Child and Youth Development: New Ontario Initiatives

Child Care Modernization and Recreation

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Background

- Current Day Nurseries Act enacted in 1946
- Early 1990's, municipalities exempt from licensing under DNA
- Recreation programs were at one time part of the child care legislation



Sector Response

- Investment in development of a Quality Assurance Standard
- HIGH FIVE® launched by Parks and Recreation Ontario
- Scientifically-validated system for measuring quality and improving performance



Recreation Programs and Legislation

- Recreation-based programs for children under the age of 10 are **exempt** from the requirements of the Day Nurseries Act if:
 - The premise receives children for a continuous period of more than 24 hours (i.e. overnight camp)
 - The program is a Recognized Children’s Recreational Service Provider (as defined under O. Reg. 797) **and** offers programs that are:
 - Daily - are available for not more than 3 hours per day
 - Weekly - are available only one day per week, except weekend programs that may be available both Saturday and Sunday
 - Seasonal - are in operation during non-school year and school holidays as defined in regulation 304 of the Education Act; and
 - are **not** advertised for child care, day nursery or nursery school purposes

What is a Recognized Recreation Service Provider?

- O. Reg. 797:
 - Recreation Committees that run programs for children and are appointed by:
 - Council of a municipality; School Board; Council of a Band
 - Recreation camps accredited by Ontario Camping Association
 - Sports organizations that are members or affiliates of provincial sport organizations (PSOs) that are recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Ministry of Tourism agencies and attractions
 - Organizations that are recognized by resolution passed by municipal council, band council or school board in the jurisdiction in which the organization operates

Guidelines for subsidy

- Consolidated Municipal Service Manager Guidelines
- Used for granting subsidies to child care operators and recreation providers for subsidized spots
- HIGH FIVE is included as one of the quality standards



Modernizing Child Care

- Modernization consultation in 2012
 - Move from MCYS to EDU
 - Opportunity to update and reflect current standards
- 2013 New Act introduced
- New Act Goals
 - Responsive to current trends and research
 - Strong system
 - Support diversity
- Act received Royal Assent in Dec. 2014
- Proclamation date not yet set

Where are we now?

- Bill 10: Child Care Modernization Act
 - Contains new language and definitions for authorized recreation providers
- Transition to the new act
- Regulation that define authorized recreation provider still being developed



Defining Authorized Recreation Provider

- Sector collaborative: YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Municipalities, Parks and Recreation Ontario
- Principles:
 - Emphasis on positive experiences and quality
 - Alignment with other legislation
 - Clear direction and easy to understand/comply
 - Reflects current standards in recreation delivery

What does this mean for you?

- Organizations must continue to comply with O. Reg. 797
- There will be time for organizations to comply with new regulations
- Parks and Recreation Ontario will be advocating for continued support and recognition for quality after school, recreation based programs



Questions?



Thank You!



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