



---

March 7, 2017

Minister Deborah Matthews  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development  
3rd Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N3

Hon Deborah Matthews,

**Re: Legislation of Child and Youth Care Practice in Ontario and the Psychotherapy Act**

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our lobbying efforts, re: The Psychotherapy Act (Psychotherapy becoming a Controlled Act) and Child and Youth Care Practice, in Ontario.

As the Ministry responsible for educating 1000 Child and Youth Care (CYC) graduates annually, from 24 Colleges and Universities across the province, we feel you have a very important role in this effort. The employment of 10,000 Child and Youth Care Practitioners (CYCPs) in Ontario is at risk. If this legislation is passed, without the practice of CYC becoming regulated, the future viability of post secondary CYC education is also at risk in the Province of Ontario.

CYCPs provide front line support to the most marginalized and vulnerable children and youth within our communities. They work within numerous specialized and often high risk settings including; child welfare, youth justice, children's mental health, shelters, education, substance use, and other community based outreach programs. 25 post secondary programs in Ontario, at the diploma, degree and now graduate degree level, educate and train CYCPs to develop a unique skill set (which includes the use of psychotherapeutic technique) to work with this group of young people in specialized settings. However, given the changes occurring with this legislation, without the regulation of CYC practice occurring, enrolment and retention is already starting to falter in these once over-prescribed programs.

We strongly urge that you move this motion forward to regulate CYC Practice to ensure the sustainability of the 25 post secondary programs in the Province. Please see the attached proposal, *Safeguarding the other 24 hours*, from the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care, and the Vocational Standards for post-secondary CYC programs in Ontario.

Respectfully,

Christine Gaitens, BA CYC (Cert) CYC-P  
President of the Board  
Ontario Association of Child & Youth Care