

**Ministry of Children  
and Youth Services**

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**JUN 30 2017**

Ms. Christine Gaitens  
President of the Board  
Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care  
c/o The School of Child and Youth Care  
Ryerson University  
350 Victoria Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5B 2K3

Dear Christine:

Thank you for your letters regarding the regulation of child and youth care practitioners. I am pleased to respond.

I am aware of the important contribution that child and youth care practitioners make to serving some of the most vulnerable children and youth in our province. This profession is a mainstay in our front line delivery of services across sectors. As such, it is important that you are part of our continuing policy discussions focused on workforce development and pre-service qualifications. I wish to express my gratitude to you for taking the time to meet with Miles Hopper on March 20, 2017, to discuss these issues.

As you know from our discussions at the Residential Services Reference Group, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) will release our roadmap for long-term system transformation in the upcoming blueprint on residential services reform. We expect that the blueprint will include a commitment to examining workforce development issues. MCYS will continue to seek the advice of the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC) as we determine a path forward on this important work. I know we have a lot of work ahead of us. Your input and advice, and the perspective of OACYC, is valued and always welcome. Please feel free to contact Marian Mlakar, Director, Children and Youth at Risk Branch, at [marian.mlakar@ontario.ca](mailto:marian.mlakar@ontario.ca) or 416-212-5205, if you would like to discuss this further.

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Again, thank you for taking the time to write and for your continued support for children and youth in residential care. I look forward to continuing to work together in the coming years as we implement the blueprint for residential services reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Coteau', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Michael Coteau  
Minister

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c: Marian Mlakar, Director, Children and Youth at Risk Branch