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June 6, 2017

Chief Charles Bordeleau  
Chief of Police  
Ottawa Police Service  
474 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Chief Bordeleau,

Further to our letter of May 28, 2017 and our meeting on May 29, 2017, the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC), established 1959, the professional association representing child and youth care practitioners in the province of Ontario, requests your support in our quest for regulation of our profession.

As the Chief of the Ottawa Police Service and President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, you are keenly aware of the needs of young people in our communities and the crucial role child and youth care practitioners (known as child care workers, child and youth workers and child and youth counsellors) serve as members of interdisciplinary teams in the lives of children, youth and their families in Ontario.

Child and youth care practitioners (CYCP's) provide front line supports to the most vulnerable children and youth, parents, and partners within residential treatment facilities, hospitals, schools, and communities. CYCPs offer support through relational, evidenced based and restorative practices, life space interventions including social and emotional management skill development, and crisis management. CYCPs' work in the spaces where children and youth and their caregivers live their lives. We work to promote mental health stability and wellbeing through education and direct support in the moment of escalated and crisis situations and daily life events.

As you are aware, presently our profession remains unregulated. The OACYC is concerned that without regulation the very children and youth whom we aim to support are put at risk. As an unregulated profession, anyone can call themselves a child and youth care practitioner regardless of their training, skill set and experience and be hired to work with vulnerable children and youth. Regulation would result in only qualified staff doing this work. These regulated professionals would have the knowledge and skills necessary to reduce risk when dealing with the escalated and high risk behaviour often presented by these vulnerable young people. Further, regulation of CYC practice would enforce accountability to a code of ethics and scope of practice. Ultimately, it is our assertion that regulation would reduce reliance on police services to provide behaviour management or proximity support in situations that are not criminal in nature. Regulation would also increase collaboration with police services to implement restorative practices.

Regulation of CYC would increase public safety. It would put additional safeguards in place for children in care, for children in need of protection and treatment and for children in need of



Ontario Association of  
**CHILD AND YOUTH CARE**  
Association Ontarienne des Techniques  
**D'ÉDUCATION SPÉCIALISÉE**

C/O The School of Child and Youth Care,  
Ryerson University,  
350 Victoria Street,  
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

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additional supports in all of the places in which they live their lives. Regulation of CYPs would reduce the pressure on police services and ensure that police officers are available to respond to urgent police matters in the community when they arise.

The OACYC respectfully asks that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police considers the benefits of regulation of child and youth care and joins in our request for legislation. Please consider providing us with a letter of support that outlines your views on the value of child and youth care practitioners and the need for legislation to regulate the profession.

Respectfully yours,

Christine Gaitens  
President of the Board  
Ontario Association of Child & Youth Care