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March 3, 2015

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

Sent by email to: office@oacyc.org

Dear Ms. Gaitens

I am writing to you in strong support of the Associations' goal of professional regulation for child & youth care workers in this province. Ontario has the most child & youth care practitioners in all of Canada and has the most college programs in the country. It seems only fitting that the province take the next step and legislate regulation for the profession, since child & youth care practitioners work with the most vulnerable citizens in the province.

To dedicate as many resources as we have in establishing College and University educational programs for students in child & youth care and then not provide a professional career path seems like a waste of resources as many trained child & youth care workers move out of the field shortly after graduation given the career restrictions. Having high turnover in a sector that benefits most from experience, skills, and knowledge again is short sighted.

In our organization we engage experienced child & youth workers who work with not only child and youth experiencing mental health, developmental, youth justice and substance abuse challenges but also with adults who have had a traumatic brain injury and even seniors who are demonstrating severe behavioural challenges.

In summary please continue your very hard work in educating government policy and service officials, and their political masters, to understand that regulation is a required oversight and professional structure that needs to be put into place to ensure that those working closest with the most challenging members of our society are supported to do their very best each day.

Sincerely



Bill Carty
President & CEO
Bartimaeus Inc.