



Professional Student
Services Personnel



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Attention: **Christine Gaitens**
President
The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care

April 24, 2015

I am writing today to express my sincere hope that you will act on behalf of the best interests of children and youth in Ontario. I support the work of the OACYC to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to pass and enact legislation that will regulate the practice of Child and Youth Care in Ontario.

As the President of Professional Student Services Personnel, OSSTF District 12, and as a Child and Youth Care Practitioner, I am keenly aware of the crucial role child and youth care practitioners serve as members of interdisciplinary mental health teams all over the province, specifically in schools.

The regulation of the child and youth care profession is in the best interests of children, young people and families. It will ensure standards of practice and a regulatory body promoting accountability and ensure the safety of children and youth in Ontario. Additionally, it will give surety to the fact that our children and youth will be cared for by qualified workers. Regulation will also ensure that these professionals who are trained to meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable children are identified as valuable team members and are positioned to provide those services based on best practices and education with qualified supervision.

If you require further information, please contact me.

I sincerely hope that children, youth and families of Ontario can count on your support for high-quality care from qualified practitioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Olga De Melo'.

Olga

Olga De Melo President
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