



HUMBER
School of Social &
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June 11, 2014

Jennifer Cawley Caruso
Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counselors
2384 Yonge St. PO Box 1214
Toronto ON M4P3J6

Dear Jennifer

As Child and Youth Care professionals, educators and coordinators of one of the most established Child and Youth Care post-secondary programs in Ontario, we are writing in support of the work of the OACYC to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to pass and enact legislation to regulate the profession of Child and Youth Care in Ontario.

At Humber College we are responsible for the training of future child and youth care professionals both at the advanced diploma and degree level. Each year we graduate exceptionally well trained new professionals - the majority of whom step into work supporting some of the most vulnerable children youth and families in the province of Ontario. Our graduates are well prepared for the challenges of this work; understanding the complexity of relational practice, the risks, responsibilities and liabilities of their chosen profession. Unfortunately because Child and Youth Care remains an unregulated profession, our graduates are often faced with assuming responsibility for the work by individuals who are not trained and are without qualification. The failure to regulate the Child and Youth Care profession places our graduates at risk, while increasing the vulnerability of many children, youth and families in this province.

Child and Youth Care students are required to complete hours of supervised clinical experience prior to graduation. While supervising our students in these internships we are regularly made aware of the impact of our unregulated profession. Children and youth in Ontario have the right to high quality and consistent care; children and youth in Ontario have the right to be protected from unqualified, incompetent or unfit practitioners. It is our belief that all practitioners working with children and youth should be subject to a regulated code of ethics and articulated standards of practice. To this end, Humber College along with other post-secondary Child and Youth Care programs across Canada has established the Child and Youth Care Education Accreditation Board. Because we feel so strongly about

the need for regulation we are working toward the accreditation of Canadian post-secondary child and youth care practice programs. What is missing is any relevant legislation establishing the self-regulatory body needed to promote and maintain the high standards we teach within our soon to be CYCEAB accredited programs.

We support the work undertaken by the OACYC to establish a regulatory body to serve and protect the public interest specific to child and youth care, and to regulate the practice of our profession. We support these efforts on behalf of our Child and Youth Care Advanced Diploma, and our Bachelor of Child and Youth Care degree programs, our students and faculty. But more importantly, we support Child and Youth Care professional regulation because it is best practice –because we believe the failure to regulate the profession places vulnerable children and youth at risk.

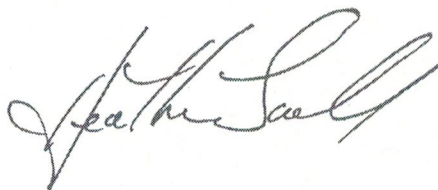
We hope this letter supporting your initiatives will be useful, and look forward to continuing to support the work of the Association in this endeavor.

Regards



Brenda Webb CCW M.Ed.

Program Coordinator
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Heather Snell MES

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cc. Christine Gaitens
cc. Melissa Teles