

April 02, 2015

**RE: ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE**

**Dear OACYC Board of Directors:**

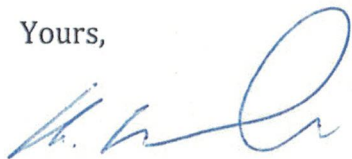
On behalf of the School of Child & Youth Care at Ryerson University, I am writing to extend my support to the OACYC in its work to improve the regulatory and practice contexts of services for children and youth facing adversity. In particular, I want to express my explicit support to for the goal of the OACYC to ensure that child and youth care practice in Ontario becomes a legislated and regulated profession.

Our School not only provides pre-service training to over 600 students at any given time, but it is also a place of advanced research and innovation in child and youth serving contexts. It is clear from decades of research, project involvement and accumulated evidence that young people facing adversity and living lives characterized by high levels of vulnerability deserve, and indeed, require, the support of the most qualified and competent professional practitioners. It is furthermore clear that this level of support can only be provided if the profession of child and youth care is recognized as one that is governed by standards related to pre-service training and on-going professional development, and if the service sectors employing child and youth care practitioners recognize the need to invest and support the child and youth care professionals entrusted with serving the most vulnerable group in our society.

I want to extend my support to the OACYC in its work to end the long standing practice in human service sectors to present to vulnerable and often highly traumatized young people untrained helpers, with limited competencies and also limited and often no accountability.

The School of Child & Youth Care is firmly committed to the excellent work of the OACYC. We wish you success in the quest for legislation, and are prepared to assist in that process whenever possible.

Yours,



Dr. Kiaras Gharabaghi  
Director, School of Child & Youth Care  
Ryerson University