



Children's Centre

THUNDER BAY

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May 1, 2015

*Children First*

Christine Gaitens  
President of the Board  
**Ontario Association of Child & Youth Counsellors**  
The School of Child and Youth Care,  
Ryerson University,  
350 Victoria Street,  
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

Dear Christine:

**RE: Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care**

On behalf of Children's Centre Thunder Bay, I am writing to extend my support to the OACYS in its work to improve the regulatory and practice contexts of services for children and youth facing adversity. Frankly, it is about time the province regulated all health professions including those that have historically marginalized by the power house professions of nursing, psychology or medicine.

At CCTB we see the regulation of health professions from three perspectives. First, it ensures the employee sitting across from our children, youth and families is minimally qualified to do the work we required of them. Second, it forces staff to take responsibility for their continuing education, a concept which is line with our approach to learning and staff development. Third, we see regulation and licensing as tools embedded our quality assurance and risk management programs.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay has been a leader in requiring the professionalization of our work force and in fact we hire only academically qualified individuals to fill any of our jobs. More specifically, we title our work by professions requiring all of our professionals where possible to be licensed. For example, all Social Workers including our managers must be licensed. In fact, there are only a few of our staff who are not licensed one of which is Child and Youth Work.

With this said, Children's Centre Thunder Bay both welcomes and supports the move to regulate the Child and Youth Care profession. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [dwalker@childrenscentre.ca](mailto:dwalker@childrenscentre.ca) or 807-343-5006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane Walker, MSW, RSW, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Rebecca Ward