

April 2011

Dear Early Years Partners,

The Lead Agencies from the 15 Ontario Early Years Centres comprising Central East Region (CER) are pleased to submit the enclosed report. Central East Region extends from Christian Island in the north to Lake Ontario in the south and from Trenton in the east to the western boundary of Woodbridge and King in York Region.

CER OEYCs are excited about the concept of the Best Start Child and Family Centres and are prepared to support the implementation of the vision. We are especially pleased that this process will be guided by Minister Broten and Dr. Pascal, both of whom have an intimate knowledge of families raising our youngest children.

Central East Region is a large geographic area that encompasses a mix of rural and urban constituencies, each with their unique experiences. In the south, for example, there is a high density and immigrant population, as opposed to the social isolation in the north. Whereas transportation with non-existent/limited public transit and inaccessible distances to services create problems for rural populations, high demand and overcrowded programs pose problems for those in urban areas. Ontario Early Years Centres in Central East Region have been successfully meeting these challenges for almost ten years, offering a variety of programs and supports for children and families responding to their needs and unique to their individual communities.

As you review the accompanying document, we are certain you will agree the OEYCs of Central East Region have demonstrated our willingness and capacity to support the implementation as the plan for Best Start Child and Family Centres is developed. We are ready to take an active role in moving it forward within our communities.

Respectfully yours,

Ontario Early Years Lead Agencies, Central East Region

Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYCs)

Central East Region

Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford

Durham

Haliburton-Victoria-Brock

Markham

Northumberland

Oak Ridges

Oshawa

Peterborough

Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge

Simcoe North

Simcoe-Grey

Thornhill

Vaughan-King-Aurora

Whitby-Ajax

York North