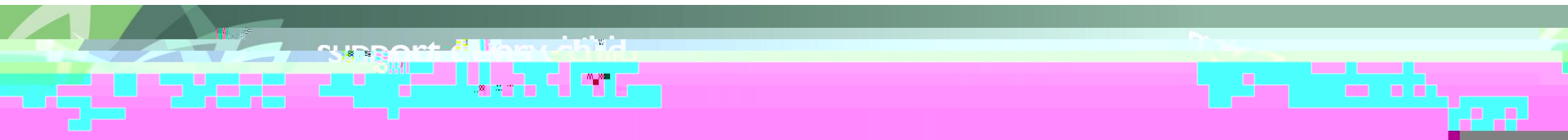
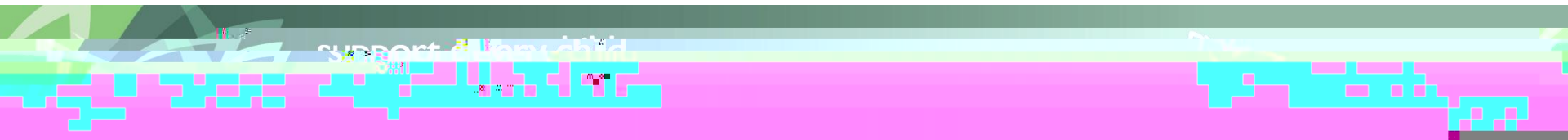


Child Care Modernization Act, 2014



- ‡ Consultation on modernizing the child care system began in 2012 with the ***Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, and Working Together*** discussion paper.
- ‡ In the Winter of 2013/14 the government also posted proposed regulatory changes under the ***Day Nurseries Act*** (DNA)



Overview of New Legislation

The new ***Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014***:

Enhances safety and strengthens oversight of the licensed and unlicensed child care sector by providing the government with a range of new enforcement tools (e.g. ability to issue administrative penalties).

Increases access to licensed child care options by increasing the number of children a licensed 3(c)-3(are)22(opt)-2(13(c)-3(hildren)23(a Tm 1 g 1 G [()] TJ ID

Safety and Oversight

‡ The legislation provides the government with greater authority and enforcement tools to strengthen oversight and enhance safety. Tools include:

- ± Authority to issue administrative penalties, which could be up to \$100,000 per infraction
- ± Ability to immediately stop a child care provider from operating in
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- ± The ability to issue compliance orders and enforce rules in the unlicensed sector
- ± The requirement to publish information when child care providers are found to be violating the act
- ± The power to prevent individuals convicted of certain crimes from providing child care
- ± An increase in the maximum penalty for an offence under the act of up to \$250,000 or a term of no more than one year of imprisonment, or both

Increasing Access

- ‡ The maximum number of children that licensed home-based providers can care for would be increased from 5 to 6.
- ‡ Unlicensed providers would continue to be permitted to care for a maximum of 5 children but would be required to adhere to the same age restrictions as the licensed home-based sector:
 - ± No more than 2 under 2, and providers must include their own children under 6 years of age
 - ± 7 KH SURYLGHU ¶ V R Z Q would not have to be counted if the provider has fewer than 2 under 2, the SURYLGHU ¶ V R Z Q FKLO C FDK and the provider meets prescribed criteria.



Focus on Quality

- ‡ The legislation sets out the provincial interest that there be a system of child care and early years services that promotes health, safety and well-being of children and high quality experiences.
- ‡ Includes provision that Minister may issue a policy statement on programming and pedagogy.
- ‡ The legislation amends the Education Act to require school boards to ensure before-and-after school programs are available to 6-12 years olds, where there is sufficient demand. Programs could be delivered directly by boards, by licensed child care operators or third-party recreation providers prescribed by regulation.



Regulatory Approach

- ‡ Given the transformative scope of the new legislative framework for the child care sector, the ministry is taking a staged approach to the development and implementation of new regulations.
- ‡ A first round of regulatory changes will pave the way for further system transformation in child care. The proposed regulatory changes take into consideration:

- í Advice and recommendations provided by:

- f* The Ombudsman of Ontario to strengthen oversight of unlicensed child care.
 - f* The Auditor General of Ontario to support the quality of child care programs.

- Input and advice received through:

- f* The discussion paper on Modernizing Child Care in Ontario in June 2012.
 - f* The Regulatory Registry posting in December 2013 with certain regulatory proposals from that posting now being included in this round of regulations.

- í Key items necessary to support the transition over to the new Act and operationalize provisions that are not enforceable without new regulations (e.g. use of enforcement tools)

- ‡ Regulations are subject to a legislative duty for public consultation for at least 45 days.

Regulatory Approach

‡ Draft tier 1 regulatory proposals were available

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website from March 24th to May 11th

‡ Tier 1 proposals focus on:

- ± Licensing Clarity

- ± Enforcement

- ± Program quality

- ± Homes Child Care

- ± Before and after school programs

- ± Alignment with schools

- ± Health and safety

- ± Children with special needs



Next Steps

- ‡ Advice received from the Regulatory Registry posting will inform the next steps towards modernizing the child care and early years system in Ontario.
- ‡ The ministry will continue to engage and inform families and the child care and early years sector on changes under Bill 10.

