His Worship Larry Di Ianni
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Di Ianni:

Thank you for your letter regarding our Best Start Plan.

I would like to thank the Hamilton Best Start Network and the Hamilton Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for the commitment and dedication they have shown in making the Best Start vision a reality. As a Best Start Demonstration Community, Hamilton East is playing an important role by sharing best practices and helping to guide the implementation of Best Start across Ontario over the long term.

As you know, our government signed a five-year, $1.9 billion agreement with the federal government to deliver a comprehensive early learning and child care program to Ontario families, including greater access to more licensed/regulated child care spaces. We signed this agreement because Ontario families have demonstrated an overwhelming demand for more high-quality, regulated child care spaces.

Our municipalities, who have seen this demand first-hand in their respective communities, have been working tirelessly to bring life to the agreement we reached with the federal government. Given this demand, and the tremendous progress we have made, it is our hope that the new federal government will honour the five-year agreement.

Ontario families support our Best Start Plan and our expansion of child care spaces to provide their children with quality early child development. We know that many Ontario families are counting on our child care agreement with the federal government, and that is why we will continue to advocate on their behalf.

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I would encourage you to work with our government to convince the federal government to honour the agreements that have been struck with the provinces on behalf of parents and children who need this support.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Chambers
Minister