{DATE}

Hon. Becky Druhan

Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

4th Floor, Brunswick Place
2021 Brunswick St., P.O. Box 578
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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educmin@novascotia.ca

RE: **Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System**

Dear Minister Becky Druhan,

I am a business owner from {community name} and I am writing to express my concerns about your government’s efforts to rush through massive changes to childcare services by implementing the newly announced Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System that may negatively locally owned businesses.

As an employer, having access to quality, reliable and affordable childcare is extremely important for my staff. This allows our children to develop at an early age while providing the necessary care to permit parents to work and provide for their families. We are already facing crippling workforce challenges and any interruption in childcare services is unacceptable at this time. Childcare providers are the cornerstone of our community and like a second family. Without them our staff would be unable to actively participate in the workforce and contribute to the province’s economy. They deserve your respect and appreciation.

We were pleased to learn about the possibility of childcare being provided for the very affordable rate of $10 per day as announced by the province on January 14, however, we are now disappointed to hear that this benefit is placing a great burden on our childcare centres.

Forcing privately owned childcare operators to choose one of three options that may result in their inevitable closure is not only jeopardizing their business, it is creating uncertainty for children and parents. Childcare operators in this region offer extraordinary care, flexible hours and are rarely impacted by weather events. This enables staff to work freely without worries or inconvenience of finding after-school or snow-day care when schools are shuttered.

We ask your government to pause this action and immediately engage in meaningful discussions with the provinces privately owned childcares centres to negotiate a sustainable, equitable solution for business, government, parents and most importantly the children of Nova Scotia.

Best regards,

{NAME}

CC: David Ritcey, MLA Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook Salmon River (David.Ritcey@novascotia.ca)

 Tom Taggart, MLA Colchester North (Tom.Taggartmla@gmail.com)

 Larry Harrison, MLA Colchester Musquodoboit Valley (larryharrisonmla@gmail.com)

 Premier Tim Houston (PREMIER@novascotia.ca)