

September 8, 2009

## One Teacher - One Class

In June, Dr. Charles Pascal, the government's Early Learning Advisor, delivered his report, *With Our Best Future In Mind* containing 20 recommendations on how to improve education for Ontario children up to age 12.

OECTA fully supports the concept of full-day learning for 4- and 5- year olds, says OECTA president James Ryan. "Our members who are Kindergarten teachers and have delivered both half-day and full-day programs, say the full-day is far better for children's learning and development."

He says that OECTA is concerned that the proposed model would give full-time Kindergarten teachers, who are responsible for two classes of children, an additional responsibility for working with four Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) on planning and implementing the program curriculum for all 40 students to address their learning achievements and challenges.

"We think a better model is One Teacher - One Class. This scenario gives very young

children more individual attention from their teacher. One teacher would focus on one class to deliver the curriculum, address students' individual strengths and be there to evaluate and troubleshoot learning issues, in a fun and engaging way, which teachers are trained to do," Ryan says.

In this alternative model, ECEs could do what they do best and are trained to do, which is to handle the childcare portion of each day. When this takes place at one location, there is no need for parents to move kids from a school to childcare setting. Constant interaction between teachers and caregivers is supported and convenient. "We look forward to working with the ECE's and respect their skills and learning," says Ryan.

Since the report was released, OECTA has been conducting an active dialogue with the McGuinty government, to ensure that this proposal is presented and understood.

It is a message that teachers can deliver to all parents.