



Toronto Kiwanis
Boys & Girls Clubs

November 29, 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Suite 101
795 Eglinton Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario M4G 4E4

Need for the Ontario Government to Provide Increased Funding for the Ontario After School Program to Offset the Costs of Bill 148

Dear Premier Wynne:

I am writing to you because the Boys & Girls Club I work at is without representation since the resignation of Glenn Murray. The Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs who provides critical after-school services to 1,329 families living in downtown Toronto needs to secure your commitment to provide increased funding for The Ontario After School Program to offset the impact of The Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act (Bill 148) on our non-profit organization and the vulnerable young people and families we serve.

The Ontario After School Program provides vulnerable Ontario children, youth and families with access to high-quality, affordable, essential after school programs. This cost-effective, high-impact program – which is governed by provincial quality standards, delivered by non-profit organizations and administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) -- aligns with the goals of the Full Day Kindergarten, Middle Years, Poverty Reduction, Mental Health, Youth and Community Hub strategies, and strengthens young people, families and communities. Unfortunately, funding for the program has been fixed at \$13.5 million annually for the past five years, while measures in Bill 148 – some of which take effect on January 1, 2018 -- will increase costs for the program significantly.

As an organization that works with vulnerable children, youth and families, we support the Government's efforts to help mitigate poverty through the measures in Bill 148. However, if the Province does not provide a corresponding funding increase for the Ontario After School Program that serves these vulnerable young people and families, the new legislation will significantly, negatively impact both those it is intended to support, and the organizations that serve them.

To prevent unintended negative impacts on the vulnerable young people and families Bill 148 is intended to help, Provincial Ministries including the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) must find the money in their 2017-18 budgets to offset the non-profit budget pressures created by the legislation. Some of these hard costs start on January 1, 2018, within the current fiscal year for which our funding agreement with the Ministry has already been signed.

We estimate the costs of implementing Bill 148 in our organization to be at minimum \$145, 347 annually. This is the direct annual cost to our operations and doesn't include any up scaling of wages that are currently at the \$15 and \$16 dollar an hr. rates. We ask the Ontario Government to incorporate these costs into an amended 2017-18 agreement and into all future agreements with our organization. Agreements should be indexed to inflation in future, based on the Consumer Price Index.

The impacts of not receiving an amended agreement with the necessary supports to off set the impacts will see young people laid off, program reductions and cost increases to parents.

The Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs commends the Province for creating the Ontario After School Program (OASP) to provide the most vulnerable children, youth and families with access to critical after school programs. To ensure that Bill 148 helps rather than hurts these vulnerable young people and families, we urge the Province to take concrete action – as you have already done for licensed child care and small business enterprises – to increase funding for this vital program, delivered by Boys and Girls Clubs and other child and youth-serving non-profit organizations across Ontario.

Thank you for ensuring that our organization can continue to provide essential after school programs to vulnerable children and youth in our community, while enhancing our “decent work” practices in line with the new Employment Standards Act provisions in Bill 148. We look forward to hearing from our program officer to begin the process of re-negotiating our agreement.

Sincerely,

Ian Edward
Executive Director
Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs
416-925-2243 ext 22
iedward@believeinkids.ca

CC:
The Honourable Liz Sandals
President of the Treasury Board
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 4320, 4th Floor, Whitney Block
Toronto ON M7A 1 W3

The Honourable Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent, 7th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7

The Honourable Eleanor McMahon
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1