

February 24, 2010

## Bill 242 raises serious concerns

Ontario's Minister of Education, the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky introduced Bill 242, the *Full Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act 2010*, February 17.

This omnibus legislation amends the *Education Act*, *Day Nursery Act*, *Child and Family Services Act*, *Early Childhood Educators Act* and *Immunization of School Pupils Act*, enabling the government to move ahead with the full-day Kindergarten program that was announced in October 2009.

OECTA has consistently and publicly supported the vision and goals of full-day kindergarten. The government made it clear that 3500 additional Kindergarten teachers will have been hired to deliver the ELKP by the time it is fully implemented in 2015. The government has also decided that teachers will work in partnership with early childhood educators (ECEs) to deliver the ELKP.

These are among the many questions that OECTA is asking:

- What are the distinctions between the role and responsibilities of the teacher and the ECE?
- How will the government ensure that differences between teachers and ECEs are clear?

- How will the team work together?
- Who is in charge of the program in the classroom?
- How large will classes be?
- Will there be a maximum class size?

Many of these questions are addressed in the legislation. Bill 242 is long, detailed and has far-reaching consequences. It touches on many more issues than had been contemplated previously.

OECTA has some very serious reservations about the content of the Bill and has asked legal counsel to help staff prepare a comprehensive analysis.

OECTA is concerned that under Bill 242 classes will be too large and unmanageable, that the responsibilities and workload of teachers will increase and that the duties assigned to ECEs are so similar to those assigned to teachers that there will be role confusion and conflict.

OECTA is working to have the government address these concerns. Further information will be forwarded as soon as it becomes available.