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ALERT

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

ALERT N^o: 09/033

To the attention of the Clerk and Council
May 12, 2009

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Government Announces Bridge Funding for 2010-2011 to Support Ontario's Municipalities and Families in Looming Child Care Crisis

Issue:

On May 12, 2009, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, Deb Matthews, announced \$18 million for 2010-2011 as a temporary measure to address the end of \$63.5 million in federal child care funding.

Background:

Since 2005, Ontario's child care system has been supported in part, by federal funding provided to provinces under the Early Learning and Child Care Agreements. The 2006 federal election resulted in the termination of the Agreements and the loss of a large portion of the \$1.9 billion that was to have been transferred to Ontario through to 2009/2010.

Subsequently, a one-time payment of \$254 million provided by the federal government was reallocated providing \$63.5 million annually until 2010. This funding was provided to municipalities to support and implement the government's Best Start initiative.

The \$63.5 million supports up to 8,470 licensed child care spaces across the province. These funds have been allocated to municipalities at 100 per cent rather than the usual 80/20 cost sharing.

AMO remains hopeful that the federal government will fulfill earlier commitments to parents in Ontario. Without this commitment, thousands of child care spaces will disappear and thousands of Ontario parents will be left wondering how they are going to go to work without access to child care.

The decision by the province to bridge the funding gap in 2010 is helpful because Ontario's municipalities and commercial and residential property tax payers cannot fill a \$63.5 million a year funding gap.

Action: AMO will continue to convince the Government of Canada that it must fulfill its commitment, and to continue to invest in the nation's future and prosperity.

AMO will be working with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association to determine the full impact of the loss of funding in communities across Ontario.

This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at www.amo.on.ca.

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