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MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EarlyON Child and Family Centres to Be Established in Hastings County

In June 2017, The Ministry of Education announced that Hastings County will receive \$1,423,538 million dollars to support the implementation of the EarlyON Child and Family Centres. Effective July 1, 2018, three lead organizations will be providing EarlyON programs and services in all areas of Hastings County.

Service providers were required to demonstrate their experience and qualifications to deliver the following:

- High quality early years programs that align with the pedagogical approach of *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*;
- The ability to collaborate and integrate services with community partners; and
- The existing capacity, knowledge and expertise to address the diverse needs of all children, parents and caregivers.

North Hastings Children's Services will be an EarlyON Centre offering child and family services in multiple locations and at outreach sites. This will include increased mobile services to outlying areas of North Hastings.

Family Space Quinte Inc. will be providing services in Belleville and South East Hastings, as well as Central Hastings including Madoc, Marmora, Tweed and Stirling. In addition, Family Space will provide services in parts of Quinte West.

Trenton Military Family Resource Centre be an EarlyON Centre located in Quinte West, which will include francophone services for military and civilian families both at CFB Trenton and off base including the French Catholic and Public School Boards.

Quick Facts:

- EarlyON centres are intended to support all children, parents and caregivers in learning, growing and connecting – together
- This is a transformation from the previous Ontario Early Years Centres; becoming a cohesive and supportive system
- Ontario’s children and families are well supported by a system of responsive, high-quality, accessible, and increasingly integrated early years programs and services that contribute to healthy child development today and a stronger future tomorrow
- Research shows that there are positive relationships between quality early learning and child care, parental labour market participation and child development outcomes. This is particularly true for vulnerable children.

“We look forward to working with our community partners to establish EarlyON Centres and supporting children and families in our communities. Working together, we will succeed in providing kids with a supportive, healthy strong start in life”, stated Warden Rodney Cooney.

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For more information contact:

Rodney Cooney, Warden
(613) 966-1311

or Jim Pine, Chief Administrative Officer
(613) 966-1311 x3204
pinej@hastingscounty.com