



PAUL VICKERS

MPP - BRUCE-GREY-OWEN SOUND

105 - 345 8th Street East, Owen Sound N4K 1L3
paul.vickers@pc.ola.org | 519-371-2421



County Council – County of Grey
c/o Warden Andrea Matrosovs
595 9th Ave. E.
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 3E3

August 20th, 2025

Dear Warden Matrosovs,

I am writing to you regarding recent news that the number of childcare spaces through the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Program (herein referred to as “CWELCC” or “the Program”) for your county has been reduced.

As you know, CWELCC, and the Canada-Ontario Early Years and Childcare Agreement (“the Agreement”), which outlines Ontario’s funding levels to implement CWELCC in the province, is guided by the central tenets of accessibility and servicing underserved communities and populations. The Agreement entitled Ontario to a fixed number of 86,000 spaces, which were distributed to System Service Managers (SSMs) across the province to implement on the ground. In order to best utilize the spaces, Ontario committed to a space recalibration exercise in 2024. All SSMs were asked to submit updated plans regarding their space creation projections through 2026. This recalibration was necessary to ensure the province could meet its overall goal of creating 86,000 spaces, and SSMs were informed that any uncommitted and/or uncertain targets could be reallocated to other regions demonstrating stronger capacity for growth.

In the County of Grey’s response, the county indicated it could create 554 spaces, though 39 did not have a clear commitment to a facility nor an implementation plan. Thus, the province reallocated those 39 spaces to regions in the province that could put them to use. In total, 27 SSMs saw space reductions, including the cities of Toronto, Ottawa, and Hamilton, as well as many rural regions across the province like Dufferin, Oxford, and Wellington counties. This redistribution exercise was not done to limit program access in Grey County; rather, it was done to ensure that spaces that our region did not have the capacity to deliver on were allocated to other families across the province in areas where they are most needed. All CWELCC spaces have now been distributed.

I trust these facts will provide some additional context for you as you plan the next steps of what the implementation of CWELCC will look like in our region.

Best regards,

Paul Vickers, MPP, Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound