



September 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra:

RE: Urgent Action Needed on Cooling Standards in Ontario Child Care Facilities

The Canadian Child Care Federation, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity, Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment, Environmental Health Clinic - Women's College Hospital, For Our Kids, Ontario Public Health Association, and Toronto Community for Better Child Care are writing to express our support for the provincial government's recent recognition that indoor cooling standards in child care facilities must be seriously considered. Children attending child care that is not cooled are facing serious health impacts because of sweltering indoor environments. Buildings that are not cooled to safe indoor temperatures are not safe or productive early learning environments for young children.

We recommend that the province:

- Set a clear maximum temperature standard for all child care facilities regulated by the *Child Care and Early Years Act*.
- At the same time, launch a targeted capital support program (grants or low-interest loans) to ensure that child care facilities have the means to install or upgrade ventilation and cooling systems, with a focus on adopting energy efficient technology such as heat pumps.

- Develop and promote passive and behavioural measures to help maintain safe indoor temperatures, such as window shading to block direct sunlight, guidance for opening windows and doors during cooler parts of the day or overnight, guidance for the safe use of fans, and turning off heat-generating electronics and appliances.
- Mandate cooling and ventilation requirements in any new or renovated child care facility regulated by the *Child Care and Early Years Act*.
- Ensure that every child care facility is equipped with the means to monitor temperature, humidity and ventilation in spaces occupied by children.
- Develop province-wide shade guidelines for outdoor spaces at child care facilities.

We have attached Canadian Environmental Law Association's report, [*Failing the Future: Extreme Heat in Child Care Settings*](#), and the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment's [*Call for Action*](#), which provide further detail on the serious health impacts of heat on young children and our policy recommendations.

The provincial government amended O. Reg 246/22 to provide mandatory cooling requirements in long-term care facilities and resident rooms. This was a welcome public health measure to protect seniors who are particularly vulnerable to indoor heat. We are urging the provincial government to take a similar approach to require cooling in child care facilities in the province.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss moving forward with indoor cooling requirements in Ontario's child care facilities.

Sincerely,

Canadian Child Care Federation

Canadian Environmental Law Association

Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity

Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment

Environmental Health Clinic - Women's College Hospital

For Our Kids

Ontario Public Health Association

Toronto Community for Better Child Care