



COLLEGE OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATORS

ORDRE DES ÉDUCATRICES
ET DES ÉDUCATEURS
DE LA PETITE ENFANCE

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

The College of Early Childhood Educators Elects First President

(March 2, 2009) — The College of Early Childhood Educators, the regulatory body for Ontario's early childhood educators, is pleased to announce the election of Lois Mahon, RECE, as the College's President at the first meeting of the Council of the College held on February 24-25, 2009 in Toronto. As the governing body of the College, the 24-member Council manages and administers College affairs.

"Ontario has taken the lead on early childhood education by establishing the first self-regulatory body for the profession in North America, and I am honoured and excited to serve as the College's first president," said Lois Mahon, RECE, President. "We all share a responsibility in children's well-being and care and I look forward to playing my part in living up to this responsibility as president."

"This College is a first for Canada and an important step in our Best Start plan to provide quality, affordable child care," said Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services. "It will help protect the public interest and help parents feel confident about the education, qualifications and accountability of the people who are caring for their children in licensed child care."

Lois Mahon represents District 1 (North and North East Region). She is currently the Executive Director of Child Care Resources in Sudbury. Lois has over 35 years of experience in several areas of early learning and care settings, such as centre-based, licensed home child care, parent child resource centres, and special needs resourcing. She has also taught at Cambrian College in both the Early Childhood Education diploma program and the Early Childhood Education Management certificate program. Additionally, Lois brings experience working with the First Nations community, the francophone community and with early childhood educators in remote and rural areas.

The following elected and appointed Council members were also elected to the Executive Committee:

- Heather Yeo, RECE, Vice-President, District 5, Toronto Region
- Susan Bebonang (appointed as a public member), Thunder Bay
- Christine Forsyth (appointed as a public member), Toronto
- Eugema Ings, RECE, District 1, North and North East Region
- Theresa Kralovensky, RECE, District 8, South West Region

The first meeting of Council represents the culmination of the transitional period in which the College was operationalized, members were registered, elections held and the *Early Childhood Educators Act* fully proclaimed. "With the transitional period complete and the new Council in place, the College is well positioned to regulate the profession of early childhood education in the public interest," said Dainora Juozapavicius, Registrar of the College of Early Childhood Educators. "We have been given the job of ensuring that the interests of children, families and the rest of the public are protected in the practice of early childhood education. We are now ready to start carrying out this important job by working with our members, stakeholders and the public."

Background:

The College was established by the *Early Childhood Educators Act* as a professional self-regulatory organization for early childhood educators, to protect the public interest and focus on quality and standards in the practice of early childhood education. A person who wishes to refer to themselves as an early childhood educator (ECE) or registered early childhood educator (RECE) must be a member of the College. Membership is also required for anyone who works within the scope of practice of early childhood education, unless specifically exempted. Members of the College must meet entry to practice requirements and standards of practice of the profession.

Attachment:

List of elected and appointed Council members.

For further information or photographs contact:

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