

# From Reopening to Recovery

AECEO & OCBCC  
June 2, 2020



# Agenda

- Setting the context
- What we've done
- Discussion of report: *From Reopening to Recovery*
- Next steps



# Context Setting

- The Ontario government has been slow to respond and has failed to address the concerns of the EYCC sector;
- Communication has been unclear and contradictory;
- Value of the early childhood workforce to children, families and communities has not been recognized;
- Have not extended \$4 per hour “pandemic pay” to educators working in emergency child care (ECC) and restricted use any provincial funds to top-up staff wages; and
- Provided no new provincial money in the “sustainability funding” for child care centres during the closure period.



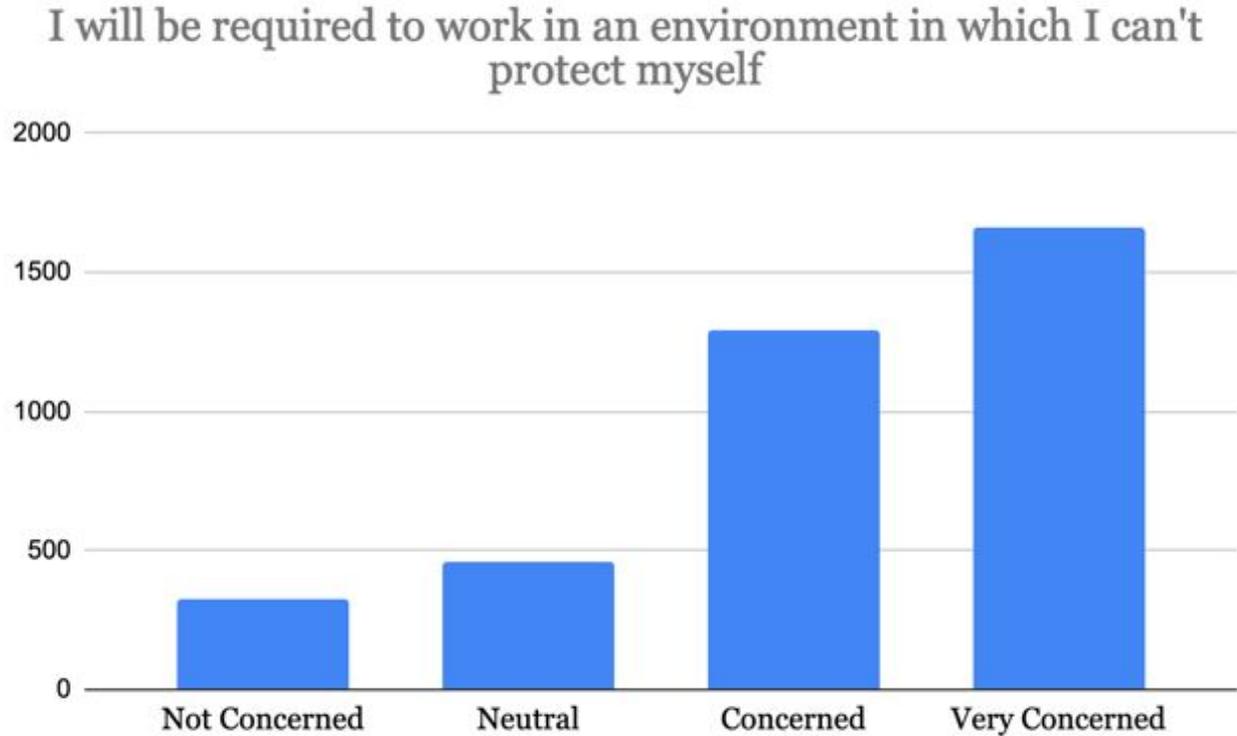
# How have we responded?

Sector consultation and support through:

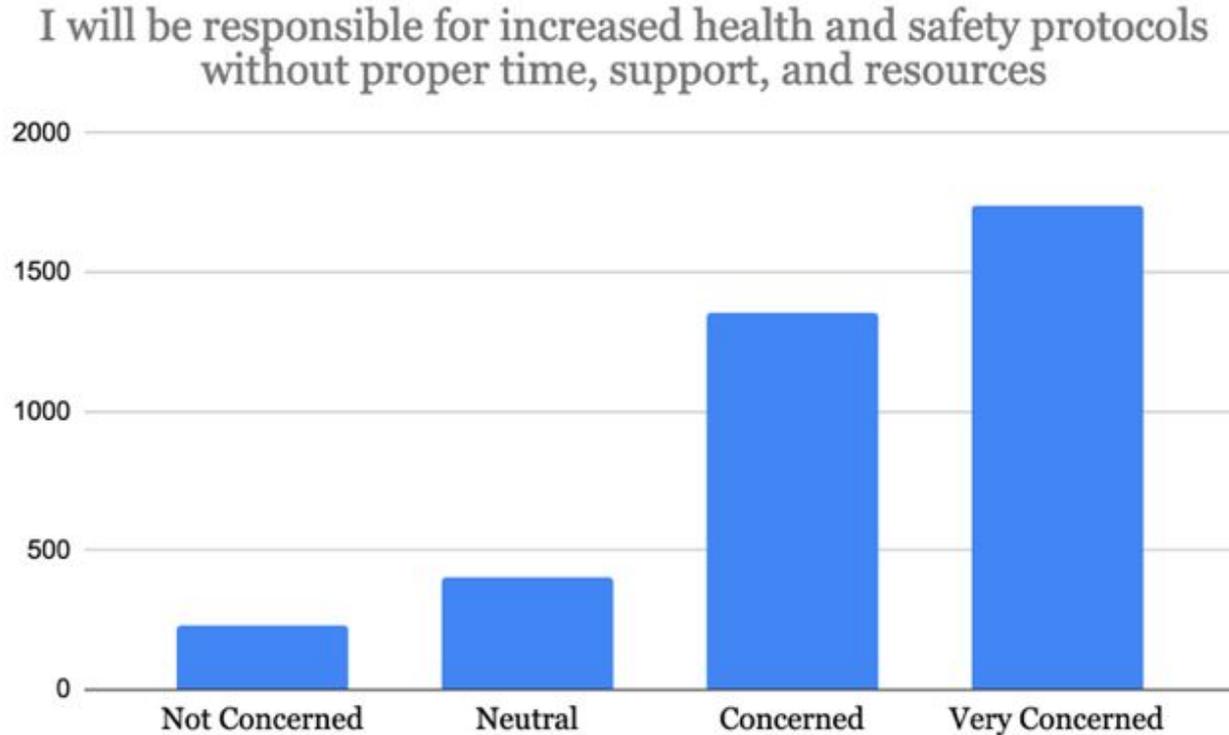
- Two province-wide webinars;
- Weekly local CoP calls with RECEs, early years staff, and operators;
- An online training series;
- An online survey of RECEs (almost 4,000 respondents!); and
- Direct conversations with our members, allies, emergency child care providers, and other sector stakeholders.
- Letter Campaign re: Pandemic Pay
- Letter Campaign re: Emergency Response Plan



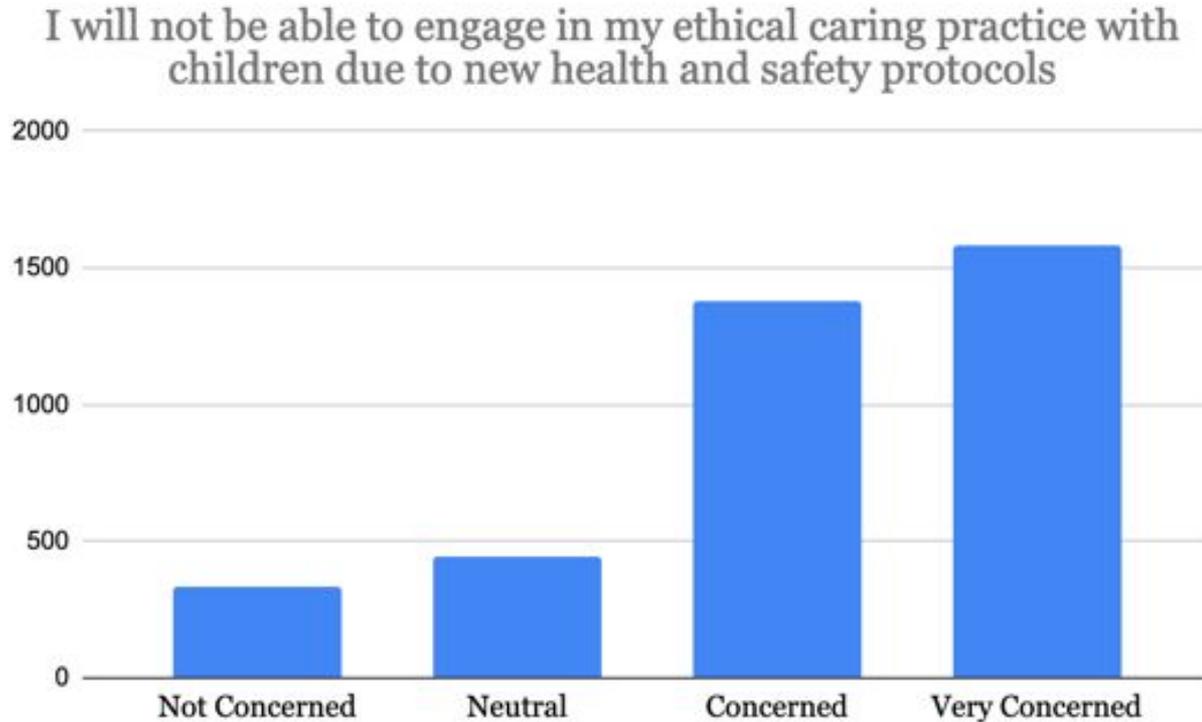
# What did we hear?



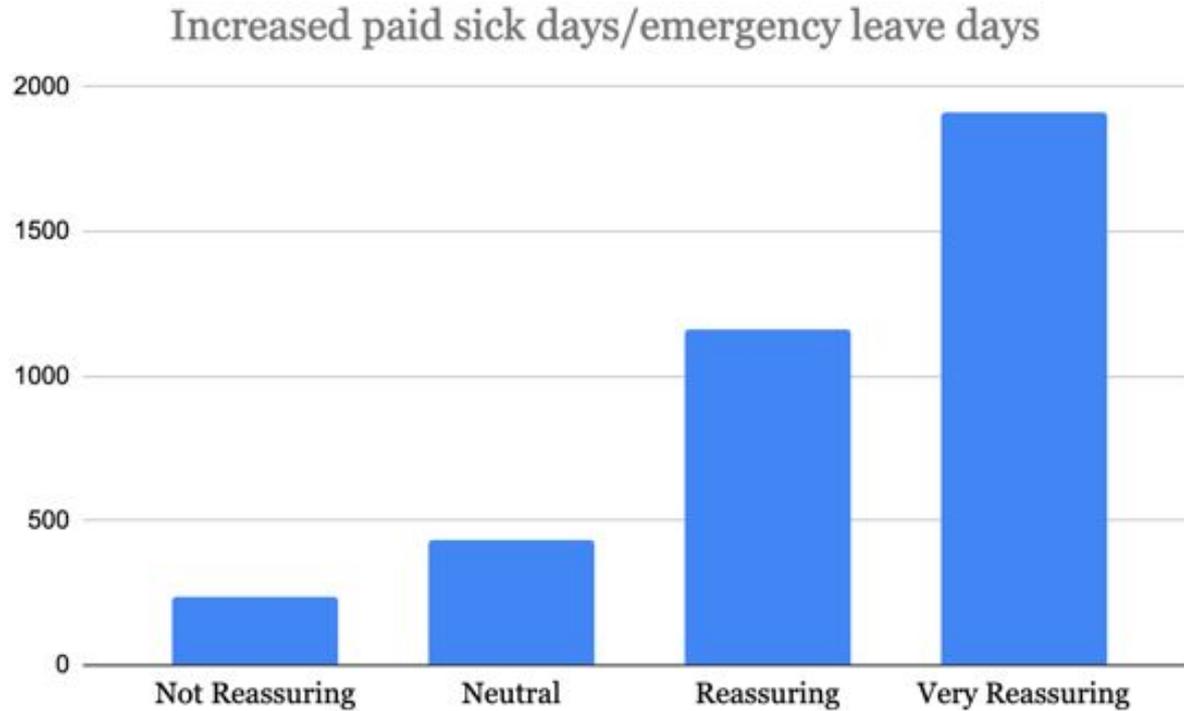
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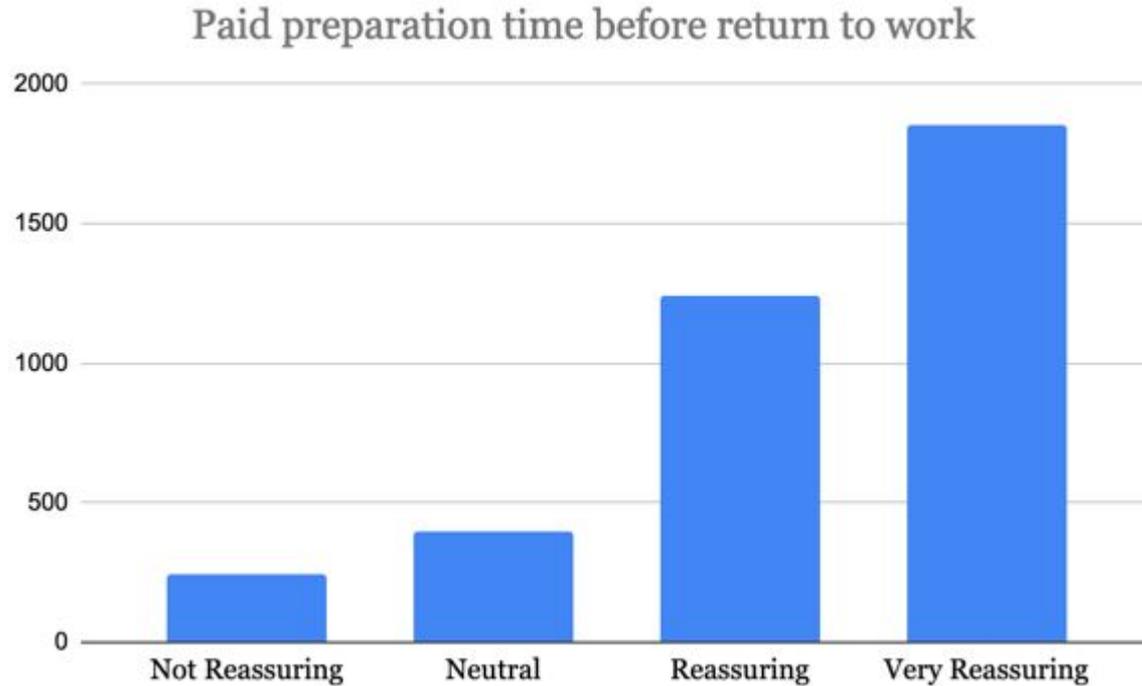
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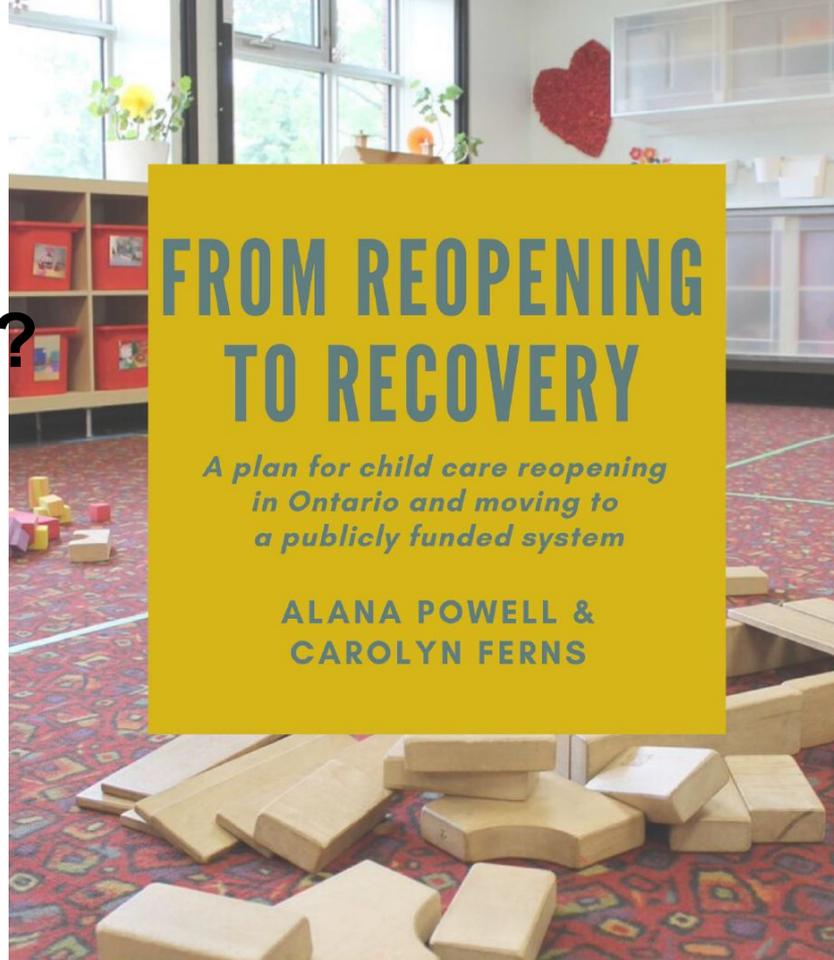
# What did we hear?

*“Considering the educators who work tirelessly to care for everyone else's children, especially in a time when there is so much uncertainty, please think about raising the pay of early childhood educators who are so desperately needed to care for children and teach them.”*

*“I would ask our government to recognize RECEs for the professionals we are and pay us accordingly.”*

*“Do you finally recognize how important child care is in our world. And are you willing to pay registered early childhood educators what they are worth?”*

Why this report?



ONTARIO COALITION FOR  
**Better Child Care**



Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario

Based on consultation, we recommend:

**1)** A minimum of **three weeks' notice** before reopening, prior to which the sector must already have had access to sector-specific reopening guidelines, which specify new operating regulations and funding plans.

Guidelines should be informed by an expert committee comprising both community and government, including public health;

- 2)** A phased reopening modelled on best practices in funding and operation of Emergency Child Care (ECC).
- a) **Reduced groups sizes and enhanced ratios and keep groups separate** at all times;
  - b) **Full base funding**, including:
    - i) funding for additional staff and consistent staff teams.
    - ii) funding and support to LHCC Agencies to ensure full compensation for licensed home child care providers who maintain smaller group sizes.
  - c) **Provincial guidelines on eligibility** and priority of families;

# Health and Safety

- 3) Approval by licensing and public health** that programs have met a threshold of health and safety and decent work practices before reopening, with a plan approved that includes use of physical space;
- 4) Repurposing available public space** to accommodate the increased need for physical space as a result of reducing group sizes and enhancing ratios;
- 6) Clear health and safety guidelines** for both centres and home child care providers.

# Health and Safety

**7) Training by local public health** on Personal Protective Equipment, screening, and health and safety procedures for staff, families, boards and operators;

**8) Clear Covid-19 testing** policy;

**9) Funding for and organized access to Personal Protective Equipment**, and health and safety supplies. This should be provincially funded and efficient distribution should be organized through CMSM/DSSABs and licensed home child care agencies;

# Health and safety

**14) Clear rules for families** on: health screening, including requirements to disclose any symptoms and medication; emergency pick-up in case of illness; when and on what conditions children can return to program after illness;

**15) Additional and dedicated support** from local public health support authorities;



# Support for ECEs and early years staff

**5)** Paid time for staff to return to **prepare programs and to undertake training** on sector- specific public health guidelines.

**10)** Immediately **increase paid sick and emergency leave days** for all RECEs and early years staff to at least 21 days;

**11)** Immediate extension of **pandemic pay** to all program staff, and funding to ensure a **\$25 minimum wage** for all RECEs;



# Support for ECEs and early years staff

**12)** Pedagogical support, including training on trauma-informed practice;

**13)** Clear provincial directives, guided by public health, on eligibility of vulnerable staff and providers to access adapted work or refuse to work, and ensure they continue to be paid;



# Funding

- Tripling the child care budget.
- Federal and provincial governments must work together.
- With this plan, Ontario will:
  - Gain a **real child care system** that will support children, parents and educators;.
  - It will be a system that is **prepared and nimble** to control outbreaks, respond to a second wave of Covid-19, and grow to meet demand
  - Put child care at the **core of social and economic recovery**.



# What we need - next steps for advocacy

**Online action** - send a letter to MP and MPP

**Share** the report and letter with 2 friends

**Join** a local Community of Practice

Set up a virtual **meeting with your MPP**

-> Join us Wednesday June 10 @ 1pm for a webinar: How to Meet Your MPP featuring Olivia Chow

-> *Review the Campaign Tool-Kit*

# Why membership matters

The AECEO and OCBCCC are membership-based organizations - we are only as strong as our memberships. Strong membership means a louder collective voice, and more power in the process of change.

We know that for many this is an impossible time - but we hope that you consider donations or memberships when able. Our work has never been more needed, and we can't do this work without you.

<https://www.aeceo.ca/membership>

<https://www.childcareontario.org/membership>

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de meilleurs services  
éducatifs à l'enfance



ONTARIO COALITION FOR  
**Better Child Care**

