



January 17, 2019

Michael Helfinger  
Intergovernmental Policy Coordination Unit  
900 Bay Street, Hearst Block 7th Floor  
Toronto, ON, M6H 4L1

**RE:** Authorized Recreation Before and After-School Programs (Bill 66) Schedule 3: Ministry of Education  
Remove restrictions on home-based child care providers, including allowing additional children, to make it easier for parents to find affordable child care. **Lower the age of children that authorized recreation programs can serve from 6 to 4.**

Dear Michael,

The Cambridge Neighbourhood Organizations (CNO) are submitting this letter in support of the modification of Bill 66, specifically supporting the new age for Before/After School programs.

Allowing children entering JK (aged 3.8 years or older) to participate in Authorized Recreational programs, instead of those entering grade 1, positively impacts the work of our eight Cambridge Neighbourhoods. These groups operate with a community development approach. This means that the residents participate in the development of the programs and services offered in their neighbourhood. Each neighbour therefore has a sense of ownership for the activities and programs that are available to them. Each group offers social and recreational programs tailored to the diverse interest of the people in their neighbourhoods. Individuals of all ages and from all walks of life can benefit. Accessible and affordable recreation programs is at the heart of the work of these eight neighbourhoods. This amendment allows for families to keep their children together in the same recreational program. This amendment prevents children being the care taker of their younger siblings when parents cannot afford the alternatives. This amendment allows for children to participate in recreational programming at an earlier age preventing potential health issues of child obesity and social isolation.

Parks Recreation Ontario have spearheaded the working group of authorized recreation and applaud this modification as one that ensures the health of the recreation sector and of families in need of quality childcare. They encouraged government to consider amending the three-hour restriction on authorized recreation programs a part of the mandated five-year review of the legislation (2019).

We, the CNO, fully support the work of Parks Recreation Ontario.

Sincerely,

Courtney Didier  
Chair of Cambridge Neighbourhood Organizations (CNO)  
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<http://cambridgeneighbourhoods.ca/>

On behalf of Executive Directors: Courtney Didier (Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre), Kim Fowler (Fiddlesticks Community Centre), Emily Jaarsma (Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre), Amanda Horne (Hespeler Village Neighbourhood Association), Joe-Ann McComb (Kinbridge Community Association), Bill Davidson (Langs), Michelle Hughes (Preston Heights Community Group), and Lori Da Cunha (Silverheights Neighbourhood Association).