

Via Email (educmin@novascotia.ca)

January 4, 2022

Honourable Becky Druhan
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Dear Honourable Minister:

Early Childhood Education is vital to the province's economy and to the families in the communities that we serve. COVID 19 has presented unprecedented challenges in maintaining quality childcare in a safe and nurturing environment. Early childhood educators are essential front-line workers who provide very close contact learning and care for children who are still waiting to be vaccinated. It is known that Covid-19 spreads more rapidly among unvaccinated populations.

Furthermore, children under the age of four are unable to social distance with peers during play and those under two are unable to wear masks in their classrooms. Most of the classrooms where they spend their days have very poor, or no ventilation systems.

This is why, as COVID 19 case numbers continue to rise in our province, Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia urgently need N95 masks and reduced class sizes to keep teachers, children, and their families safe. Access to workplace testing is also paramount to give us the best possible chance of identifying any outbreaks in child-care centers early.

In other care professions the whole system becomes strained when too many staff must isolate. It is no different for us. We believe the measures indicated above will help to keep our childcare system sustainable through this latest wave so that we can continue to support the families in our communities.

Sincerely,

Margot Nickerson

MARGOT NICKERSON
CUPE Local 4745 President

c. Dr. Robert Strang; Premier Houston; Naomi Stewart; Tracey Pinder; Nan McFadgen