



MEDIA RELEASE

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Applauds Findings of Ontario Government Report on All Day Learning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARKHAM, ON (June 16, 2009) Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) is extremely pleased with the recommendations by Charles Pascal concerning the importance of after school programming for children and youth, and looks forward to a constructive discussion with the Ontario government on the best way to deliver these services.

"It is exciting to see the Ontario government in support of the after school programs and services which Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada have been providing for more than 100 years," said Pam Jolliffe, BGCC President and CEO. "This report is a positive step forward in supporting Ontario's children and youth and their families and is in keeping with our long-standing holistic approach of providing young people with the supports from an early age to enable them to lead healthy, successful lives."

The after-school hours are critical in a child's healthy development and long-term success. After-school programming has been shown to prevent negative behaviours, improve academic performance, strengthen peer relationships and help identify an individual child's special skills or needs and deliver personal support. Currently, Boys and Girls Clubs in Ontario provide barrier-free after school programming, March break and summer camps for more than 75,000 children and youth, the majority of which are ages 6-12. Clubs provide them with essential support including academic assistance, healthy activities, proper nutrition and skills development.

"It is essential that any discussion of all day programs include those who are currently providing these services in communities across the province," said Sandra Morris, BGCC Regional Director, Central Region. "Boys and Girls Clubs have already been working with many schools and school boards in Ontario to deliver the best possible out of school programming and I look forward to discussions with the government on continuing to expand our support."

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading charitable organization providing programs that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of 200,000 children, youth and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, Clubs offer access to opportunities, after-school and at other times when children are not in school, to develop healthy behaviours, academic success and technology learning, positive relationships and life and leadership skills. Many Clubs also provide nutritious snacks and meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other support to children, youth and families at risk. Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping young Canadians to discover, develop and achieve their potential, for over 100 years. To learn more, visit www.bgccan.com.

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