



## Understanding the Role of the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE)

### *Clarifying Purpose, Responsibilities, and What It Means to Be a Self-Governing Profession in Ontario*

The [College of Early Childhood Educators](#) (CECE) is the regulatory body for the early childhood education profession in Ontario. Established under the [Early Childhood Educators Act \(2007\)](#), the College's primary responsibility is to protect the public interest — ensuring that children, families, and communities receive high-quality care and education from qualified, ethical professionals.

### What the College Does

- Sets and enforces [standards of practice and ethical conduct](#) for all RECEs.
- Maintains a [public register](#) of qualified professionals.
- Establishes entry-to-practice requirements to confirm educators' knowledge and training.
- Establishes and enforces requirements for continuous professional learning.
- Investigates and addresses complaints to uphold public trust and confidence.
- Provides guidance and [resources](#) that help educators reflect on and strengthen their professional practice.

### What It Means to Be Self-Governing

The College is a self-regulating body, meaning the profession takes responsibility for its own standards and accountability. A governing Council — composed of both elected RECEs and government-appointed public members — balances professional knowledge with the broader public interest. This model recognizes that those who understand the complexities of early learning and care are best positioned to regulate it — ensuring public confidence, professional integrity, and continuous improvement.

### How Membership Fees Are Used

- Registration and renewal processes, as well as a registration appeals process.
- Development and maintenance of professional and ethical standards, and ongoing learning requirements.
- Administration of a complaints and discipline process for professional misconduct, incompetence and incapacity.
- Development and communication of resources to support RECEs' practice.

### Supporting the Profession and the Public

While the College is not an advocacy or labour organization, it recognizes that a well-supported, well-prepared, and respected workforce is essential to public safety and high-quality early learning. Ensuring that RECEs are competent, ethical, and continually supported in their professional growth ultimately protects children and strengthens the early learning system.

