

Wynne taps Naidoo-Harris to be early years and child care minister ^[1]

Author: Benzie, Robert

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EXCERPTS

Rookie cabinet minister Indira Naidoo-Harris is being shuffled from pensions to pre-schoolers.

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced Wednesday that Naidoo-Harris, who had been charged with overseeing the soon-to-be-defunct Ontario Retirement Pension Plan, is getting new responsibilities.

“Access to high-quality, affordable child care is essential to Ontario families,” Wynne told reporters at a downtown YMCA day care facility.

“This new role in cabinet demonstrates our continued commitment to building a child care and early years system that will make life easier for parents and give children the chance to flourish,” she said.

With the Liberals spending \$120 million over three years in new funding to create 4,000 licensed day-care spaces in schools across Ontario, Naidoo-Harris could have her hands full as associate minister of education, early years and child care.

In June, the first-term Halton MPP was elevated to cabinet as associate minister of finance for the Ontario pension plan.

But a national deal with the premiers and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to enhance the Canada Pension Plan negated the need for a separate Ontario retirement scheme.

Wynne’s government spent \$70 million on the ORPP, including severance packages for people hired to administer the plan.

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