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AMENDMENT TO REGIONAL SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated April 2, 2009, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council approve the 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates for Child Care Fee Assistance, effective January 1, 2009.

2. PURPOSE

This report recommends approval from Regional Council for the 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates for Child Care Fee Assistance (*see Attachment 1*), effective January 1, 2009.

3. BACKGROUND

York Region established a Regional Schedule of Rates for the Child Care Fee Assistance Program which is reviewed annually

In September 1998, Regional Council approved the implementation of a Regional Schedule of Rates for Child Care Fee Assistance in York Region through the adoption of Clause No. 5 of Report No. 8 of the Health and Social Services Committee. This Schedule of Rates provides a standard subsidy structure of the maximum rate paid to child care operators for child care services provided to eligible families.

Regional Council also approved that the Commissioner, through the former Family and Children's Services, now Social Services Branch, review the Schedule of Rates annually. This annual review provides an analysis of the changes of market pricing for child care services in York Region. This analysis is utilized to make recommendations for changes to the Schedule of Rates that can be accommodated within the approved budget and service levels.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement includes an approved Schedule of Rates for the Child Care Fee Assistance Program

In December 2008, York Region provided subsidies to a monthly average of 3,440 children through the Child Care Fee Assistance Program. As of December 31, 2008, there were approximately 29,772 licensed centre-based and home-based spaces in York Region. Approximately 24,910 (86%) of the 28,905 licensed centre-based and 867 (100%) of the home-based spaces are covered by the Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement. Every operator with a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement has an approved schedule of rates with each rate being the lesser of the Regional Schedule of Rates or the market rate charged to the public by the operator. This process provides a standardized, consistent business practice for all operators that have a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement.

The annual rate survey that is completed by operators provides information on the average daily cost of child care for all age groups

In January 2009, the annual rate survey was distributed to all operators who currently have a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region. This survey, completed by the operator, identified the market rate for child care that is charged to the public effective January 1, 2009. This information was submitted by operators and was used to calculate the average daily cost of child care, by age group, in York Region.

The rate survey analysis supports an average increase of 2% to the Regional Schedule of Rates

Based on the analysis of the survey and consideration of approved budget and service levels, an increase of 2% to the 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates for Child Care Fee Assistance to recognize increased costs for child care operators in York Region is recommended. The implementation of the 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates will also encourage operators to maintain the number of subsidized child care spaces available to eligible families across York Region.

Operators may receive a maximum of 2% to the rates currently approved through their Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement. The 2009 rates approved for each operator will be the lesser of the 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates or the market rate charged to the public by the operator, currently on file with the Region.

Upon approval by Regional Council, the Child Care Services unit of the Social Services Branch will advise operators of the revised 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates, effective January 1, 2009 and will amend all Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements to reflect the new rates.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposed rate increase for centre-based and home-based child care will be managed within the approved 2009 Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The implementation of the revised 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates will continue to provide stability to the child care system across York Region.

7. CONCLUSION

The revised 2009 Regional Schedule of Rates supports operators by recognizing their increased costs to provide licensed, quality child care spaces in York Region. It also supports affordability of child care spaces for eligible families.

For more information on this report, please contact David Rennie, General Manager of Social Services at Ext. 2013.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)

REGIONAL SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE

Effective January 1, 2009

Centre-Based Child Care		January 1, 2009 (\$)
Infant	Full Day	55.59
	Half Day	32.23
Toddler	Full Day	43.04
	Half Day	27.44
Pre-School	Full Day	36.92
	Half Day	25.14
Kindergarten	Full Day	35.70
	Half Day	28.05
	Alternate Day	33.92
School Age	Full Day	34.22
	Summer Rate	35.19
	Before School	8.52
	After School	13.16
	Before and After School	16.83
Nursery School	Session	16.58

Home-Based Child Care		January 1, 2009 (\$)
Infant	Full Day 6 – 11 hours	42.94
	Half Day 3 to less than 6 hours	32.03
	Part Day 1 to less than 3 hours	20.11
Toddler	Full Day 6 – 11 hours	41.82
	Half Day 3 to less than 6 hours	31.88
	Part Day 1 to less than 3 hours	19.00
Pre-School	Full Day 6 – 11 hours	35.09
	Half Day 3 to less than 6 hours	27.95
	Part Day 1 to less than 3 hours	19.00
Kindergarten	Full Day 6 – 11 hours	34.73
	Half Day 3 to less than 6 hours	27.90
	Part Day 1 to less than 3 hours	19.00
School Age	Full Day 6 – 11 hours	32.44
	Half Day 3 to less than 6 hours	24.99
	Part Day 1 to less than 3 hours	17.83