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CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS AND SERVICES 2010 ANNUAL ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated March 24, 2011, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report informs Council of the number of new, amended, and terminated Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements for Child Care Fee Assistance in 2010. It also provides information regarding the number of licensed spaces and the number of children receiving child care fee assistance and the number of children on the waitlist in York Region, by municipality, in 2010.

3. BACKGROUND

York Region provides child care fee assistance to eligible families through agreements with licensed child care programs

The Execution of Documents By-law #2009-49, provides the delegation of authority for the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to sign Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements (Purchase of Service Agreements) with operators of licensed child care programs within The Regional Municipality of York.

All operators entering into a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region are required to meet specified criteria including possession of a clear license to operate a Day Nurseries Program from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Operators that enter into a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region are able to provide child care services to families that are deemed eligible to receive child care fee assistance.

Community and Health Services staff have been working with child care operators, the school boards, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to support a smooth transition in relation to child care fee assistance and services during the implementation of phase 1 of the Early Learning Program which began in September 2010 with 110 classrooms and 2,816 children in 39 schools offering the program in York Region. Starting in September 2011, an additional 19 schools will offer the program, with

63 more schools coming on board in September 2012. By September 2012 it is expected that 121 schools (approximately 46% of all schools) will be offering the program. Attachment 1 to this report shows the breakdown of participating schools by municipality for all three phases.

The child care system is experiencing transformative change related to the introduction of the Early Learning Program with impacts during phase 1 being felt more by the child care operators that are not located in schools

Impacts to the child care system during phase 1 implementation have been relatively low. The Ministry of Education provided Boards of Education across Ontario with the option of providing fee based extended day services, where there was sufficient parent demand, either through direct operation of these extended day programs by Boards of Education or through the use of a 3rd party licensed child care operator in the school. In York Region, Boards of Education have decided to provide fee based extended day services through the use of 3rd party licensed child care operators and not directly operate these programs. In many cases, child care operators operating in phase 1 Board of Education schools have been able to expand their existing licenses to include 4 and 5 year old children. There has been an impact for those child care operators who are not located in a school and some operators have needed to look at different business models, including service to younger age groups, in order to remain financially viable.

Community and Health Services staff will continue to closely monitor the impact of the implementation phases of the Early Learning Program on the child care system. It is expected that impacts will continue as the program is phased in given that by September of 2012, 49% of 4 and 5 year old children will have access to the Early Learning Program.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements enable residents to access child care services in approved programs

Residents of York Region, who qualify for fee assistance in accordance with provincial legislation and regional policy, are able to access child care services if there is fee assistance funding available, space in the approved program, and the operator has a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement in place. The Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement enables fee assistance to be paid to the operator by York Region for child care services provided for eligible residents.

Approximately 84% (28,276) of the 33,874 licensed centre-based spaces and approximately 100% (616) of home child care spaces in use by licensed home child care agencies were covered by a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region as of December 31, 2010.

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement Activity in 2010

Table 1 summarizes the number of agreements entered into, amended, or terminated by York Region in 2010.

Table 1
Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement Activity in 2010

Reporting Period	New	Amended	Terminated
January to December	12	575	3

York Region provided child care fee assistance to a monthly average of 3,391 children as of December 31, 2010 with family eligibility determined using the provincially mandated income test

There are 33,874 licensed centre-based spaces and approximately 616 home-based child care spaces in York Region. As of December 31, 2010 a monthly average of 3,391 children were subsidized by York Region. Eligibility for child care fee assistance is determined through the use of the provincially mandated income test. The use of the income test determines eligibility based on family income as identified on the Notice of Assessment (NOA). Table 2 shows the number of licensed centres, spaces and the average number of children receiving fee assistance by municipality.

Table 2
Licensed Spaces and Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Fee Assistance, by Municipality (as of December 31, 2010)

Municipality	Number of Licensed Centres	Number of Licensed Spaces (Centre based)	Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Fee Assistance	Percentage Distribution by Municipality
Markham	126	8,396	919	27.09
Vaughan	141	11,745	836	24.64
Richmond Hill	91	6,226	697	20.56
Newmarket	40	2,488	386	11.37
Georgina	15	943	214	6.32
Aurora	23	1,873	180	5.32
Whitchurch-Stouffville	21	1,041	83	2.45
East Gwillimbury	10	504	44	1.30
King	15	658	27	0.80
Other*	n/a	n/a	5	0.15
Total	482	33,874	3,391	100.00

Source: R059, OCCMS and R025, OCCMS

*Special needs children serviced outside of York Region boundaries.

As of December 31, 2010, there were 4,902 families on the waiting list for child care fee assistance. Table 3 shows these figures by municipality. York Region's Waitlist Management policy provides that applications for child care fee assistance are managed on a first come, first serve basis using a priority consideration for families with an annual income of \$36,000 and under.

Table 3
Waitlist for Child Care Fee Assistance by Applicant
by Municipality based on Waitlist Date
(as of December 31, 2010)

Municipality	Waitlist by Municipality	Percentage Distribution by Municipality
Markham	1,614	32.93
Vaughan	1,427	29.11
Richmond Hill	942	19.22
Newmarket	367	7.49
Georgina	176	3.59
Aurora	156	3.18
Whitchurch-Stouffville	147	3.00
East Gwillimbury	49	1.00
King	17	0.35
Other**	7	0.13
Total	4,902	100.00

Source: R015, OCCMS

**Children over 12 on waitlist for care due to special needs.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Child Care Fee Assistance payments are calculated using the approved cost of care minus the assessed parent contribution. The approved cost of care for each child care operator with a Consolidated Day Nursery Agreement is determined through a comparison of the posted rates charged by the operator to the public and the Regional Schedule of Rates. The Regional Schedule of Rates is determined annually through a market rate analysis process using the submission of an annual rate survey from all child care operators with a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region. Child care operators are paid a rate which is the lesser of the maximum rate indicated on the Regional Rate Schedule, the market rate the operator charges to the public or their existing rate plus a nominal percentage increase.

Expenditures related to child care fee assistance were managed within the Community and Health Services Department 2010 Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Child care fee assistance provides support to employment and/or education for families in York Region. This, in turn, supports local industry, promotes economic development, and strengthens local communities.

7. CONCLUSION

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements between York Region and child care operators enabled a monthly average of 3,391 children (as of December 31, 2010 year end statistics) of eligible residents to access child care fee assistance in 2010.

The child population and number of low income families continue to grow in York Region. The current level of provincial funding for child care fee assistance does not meet the need of the rapidly growing population as reflected by the waitlist of 4,902 children in December 2010, an increase of 26% from December 2009.

For more information on this report, please contact Cathy Elliott, Manager, Child Care Services at Ext. 2145.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the April 13, 2011 Committee meeting.)

Early Learning Program Roll-out Phases 1-3

Local Municipality	Phase One Schools	Phase Two Schools	Phase Three Schools
Aurora	- Regency Acres PS - Holy Spirit	- Devins Drive PS - Academie De La Moraine	- St Jerome - Aurora Heights PS - Ecole Elem. Catholique St-Jean - Hartman PS - Aurora Grove PS - Bayview Northeast #2
East Gwillimbury		- Park Avenue PS - Queensville PS	- Holland Landing PS - Sharon PS
Georgina	- St Thomas Aquinas - Lakeside PS - Jersey PS - Sutton PS - Morning Glory PS		- Deer Park PS - WJ Watson PS - RL Graham PS - Fairwood PS - Lake Simcoe PS - Black River PS - Prince of Peace
King	King City PS	St.Patrick	- Nobleton Senior PS - St. Mary - Holy Name - Kettleby PS

Local Municipality	Phase One Schools	Phase Two Schools	Phase Three Schools
Newmarket	- Stonehaven PS - Prince Charles PS - St. Elizabeth Seton	- Stuart Scott PS - Maple Leaf PS	- JLR Bell PS - Canadian Martyrs - Meadowbrook Ps - Glen Cedar PS
Richmond Hill	- St Charles Garnier - Pleasantville PS - Crosby Heights PS - Corpus Christi - Bond Lake PS	- OM MacKillop PS - Walter Scott PS	- Charles Howitt PS - Sixteenth Avenue PS - St Mary Immaculate - Our Lady Help of Christians - Father Henri Nouwen - Our Lady of Hope - Our Lady of the Annunciation - Lake Wilcox PS
Markham	- EJ Sands PS - Milliken Mills PS - St Francis Xavier - Coppard Glen PS - Ellen Fairclough PS - James Robinson PS - Ramer Woods PS - Blessed John XXIII - Kateri Tekakwitha - John MacCrae PS	- St. Rene/St. Luke - Johnsview Village PS - Ste. Marguerite Bourgeouys - Boxwood PS	- Bayview Fairways PS - Cathedral West - St Monica - Highgate PS - Unionville Meadows PS - Aldergrove PS - St Benedict - Wilclay PS - Armada PS - Markham Gateway PS - Parkland PS - Cedarwood PS - St Matthew - Mount Joy PS

Local Municipality	Phase One Schools	Phase Two Schools	Phase Three Schools
			• St Julia Billart • William Armstrong PS • Cornell Northeast #3
Vaughan	• Lorna Jackson PS • St Clement • St Francis of Assisi • Glenn Gould PS • St Mary of the Angels • Divine Mercy • Michael Cranny PS • St Raphael the Archangel • Holy Family • Westminster PS	• Pierre Burton PS • Joseph A Gibson PS • St Cecilia • Nellie McClung PS • Blessed Scalabirini	• St Catherine of Siena • Blue Willow PS • St Gabriel the Archangel • St James • Mackenzie Glen PS • Holy Jubilee • Forest Run PS • Glen Shields PS • Charlton PS • Yorkhill PS • Discovery PS • Teston Village PS • Woodbridge PS
Whitchurch-Stouffville	• Whitchurch Highlands PS • Glad Park PS • Summitview PS	• St Mark	• St Brigid • Stouffville South Central #1