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CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS AND SERVICES 2011 ANNUAL ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated April 18, 2012, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report outlines how the Region has assisted lower income families to stay connected to the Region's economy and communities through the provision of child care supports. Specifically, it informs Council of the number of new, amended, and terminated Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements for Child Care Fee Assistance in 2011. 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 2011.

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 York Region.

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 related services during the implementation of full day kindergarten. There are currently 58 schools that offer the full day kindergarten program in York Region. In September 2012, an additional 63 more schools are expected to come on board resulting in a total of 121 schools (approximately 46% of all schools) offering the program. Based on current information received from the Ministry of Education, an additional 58 schools will be added in September 2013 and an additional 66 schools will be added in September 2014 at the time of full implementation. Attachment 1 to this report shows the breakdown of participating schools by municipality for all the phases.

Ontario's child care system is experiencing transformative change related to the increase of full day kindergarten schools in September 2012.

The Ministry of Education provided Boards of Education across Ontario with the option of providing before and after school child care, 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.

The impact on York Region's child care system due to the implementation of full day kindergarten is minimal

The impact on the York Region child care system in schools as a result of the implementation of the first 2 years of full day kindergarten in schools has been relatively low. There has been an impact for those child care operators who are not located in schools and some operators have needed to look at different business models, including service to younger age groups, in order to remain financially viable. Phase 3 of the full day kindergarten implementation is expected to increase the number of schools providing this program by 26%. It is unknown at this time how many of the additional Phase 3 full day kindergarten schools will provide before and after school child care; however, many child care operators who are not located in schools are expecting a significant reduction in the need to provide full day programming for children ages 3.8 and older. As a result, operators are exploring the option of serving the younger age groups. The challenge for many child care operators is maintaining financial viability of their programs as daily operating costs for these younger age groups is significantly higher than for the older age groups.

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 and work with all stakeholders to support and manage the system transformation.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements enable lower income 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.

Parents who are approved to receive fee subsidy have access to a broad range of child care options. Approximately 84% (29,007) of the 34,532 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, 2011.

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement Activity in 2011

Table 1 summarizes the number of agreements entered into, amended, or terminated by York Region in 2011.

Table 1
Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement Activity in 2011

Reporting Period	New	Amended	Terminated
January to December	17	649	8

York Region provided child care fee assistance to a monthly average of 4,171 children as of December 31, 2011 with family eligibility determined using the provincially mandated income test

There are 34,532 licensed centre-based spaces and approximately 616 home-based child care spaces in use by licensed home child care agencies in York Region. In December 2011, there was a monthly average of 4,171 children receiving fee subsidy in 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. 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, 2011)

Municipality	Number of Licensed Centres	Number of Licensed Spaces (Centre based)	Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Fee Assistance	Percentage Distribution by Municipality
Markham	125	8,582	1,120	26.84
Vaughan	139	11,570	1,037	24.85
Richmond Hill	88	6,378	871	20.88
Newmarket	37	2,609	445	10.67
Georgina	14	1,047	270	6.48
Aurora	24	1,988	214	5.14
Whitchurch-Stouffville	20	1,188	109	2.61
East Gwillimbury	10	634	65	1.55
King	15	536	27	0.65
Other*	n/a	n/a	13	0.33
Total	472	34,532	4,171	100.00

Source: R047, OCCMS and R025, OCCMS

*Special needs children serviced outside of York Region boundaries.

As of December 31, 2011, there were 5,196 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, 2011)

Municipality	Waitlist by Municipality	Percentage Distribution by Municipality
Markham	1704	32.80
Vaughan	1387	26.70
Richmond Hill	1045	20.12
Newmarket	399	7.68
Georgina	213	4.09
Aurora	189	3.63
Whitchurch-Stouffville	173	3.32
East Gwillimbury	52	1.00
King	27	0.52
Other**	7	0.14
Total	5,196	100.00

Source: R015, OCCMS

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

Council's support and internal process adjustments have helped mitigate the impact on the growth of the waitlist for child care fee assistance in York Region.

Due to growth, wait lists are an ongoing issue; however, investments in child care fee assistance by Council and the Province have had a positive impact in York Region. Increased access to child care fee assistance has helped parents get and keep jobs. The waitlist does continue to grow but this growth is much slower. As of December 31, 2011, the waitlist was 5,196, which was only a 6% increase from December 31, 2010. As of March 31, 2012, the waitlist has been reduced to 4, 772. This decrease of the waitlist in the first quarter of 2012 has been because of the enhanced investments and the resulting ability to call applicants off the waitlist. Also, a review of the wait list was completed by staff to ensure applicants currently on the waitlist still met the required criteria. In instances where applicants did not meet or no longer met criteria, staff provided options and adjusted the list to focus on meeting eligible families' needs. This resource intensive process is conducted annually.

Link to key Council-approved plans

This report supports the Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051 through the reporting of information which demonstrates the provision of human services that strengthens communities and increases access to affordable child care for families to help them reach their social and economic potential. This report also provides information which demonstrates positive steps towards achieving goals in the 2011 – 2015 Strategic Plan

and the Multi Year plan goal of enhancing fee subsidy levels to mitigate growth of the waitlist and support low income families to work or study and contribute to Regional economic vitality.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Child care fee assistance expenditures in 2011 were \$25,917,048 gross and \$3,470,583 net tax levy.

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.

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 4,171 children (as of December 31, 2011 year end statistics) of eligible residents to access child care fee assistance in 2011.

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 5,196 children in December 2011, an increase of 6% from December 2010.

For more information on this report, please contact Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Acting General Manager, Social Services at Extension 2150.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the May 9, 2012 Committee meeting.)

Early Learning Program Roll-out Phases 1 – 5

Local Municipality	Phase One and Two Schools	Phase Three Schools	Phase Four Schools	Phase Five 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	Northern Lights PS	- Our Lady of Grace - George Street PS - St. Joseph - Light of Christ - Highview PS
East Gwillimbury	- Park Avenue PS - Queensville PS	- Holland Landing PS - Sharon PS	Good Shepherd	- Our Lady of Good Counsel - Mount Albert 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	St. Bernadette	Our Lady of the Lake
King	- King City PS - St.Patrick	- Nobleton Senior PS - St. Mary - Holy Name - Kettleby PS	Schomberg PS	

Local Municipality	Phase One and Two Schools	Phase Three Schools	Phase Four Schools	Phase Five 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	- Denne PS - Crossland PS - St Nicholas - Clearmeadow PS - Terry Fox PS - Armitage Village PS - Bogart PS	- Poplar Bank PS - Alexander Muir PS - St Paul - St John Chrysostom - Rogers PS - Notre Dame
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	- Oak Ridges PS - Father Fredrick McGinn - MacLeod's Landing PS - Moraine Hills PS - HG Bernard PS - Silver Pines PS - Redstone PS - Silver Stream PS - St Joseph - Ross Doan PS - Bayview Hill PS - Doncrest PS	- Kettle Lakes PS - St Marguerite d'Youville - Trillium Woods PS - Richmond Rose PS - St Anne - Christ the King - Red Maple PS - Pope John Paul II

Local Municipality	Phase One and Two Schools	Phase Three Schools	Phase Four Schools	Phase Five Schools
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 • Johnsvie Village PS • Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys • Boxwood PS	• Bayview Fairways PS • Cathedral West • St Monica • Highgate PS • Unionville Meadows PS • Aldergrove PS • St Benedict • Wilclay PS • Armadale PS • Markham Gateway PS • Parkland PS • Cedarwood PS • St Matthew • Mount Joy PS • St Julia Billart • William Armstrong PS • Cornell Northeast #3	• Baythorne PS • St Anthony • Willowbrook PS • Thornhill PS • Henderson Ave PS • Bayview Glen PS • German Mills PS • St Michael Catholic Academy • Mother Teresa • Randall PS • Roy H. Crosby PS • St Patrick • Reesor Park PS • Edward Crowle PS • Central Park PS • Coledale PS • Buttonville PS • Ashton Meadows PS • Lincoln Alexander PS	• Stornoway Crescent PS • St Justin Martyr • William Berczy PS • Unionville PS • Parkview PS • St Vincent de Paul • David Suzuki PS • Sir Richard W Scott • Legacy PS • Franklin Street PS • St Edward • Cornell Village PS • Little Rouge PS • Greensborough PS • Donald Cousens PS • Stonebridge PS • San Lorenzo Ruiz • All Saints • St Joseph

Local Municipality	Phase One and Two Schools	Phase Three Schools	Phase Four Schools	Phase Five Schools
			• Castlemore PS • Wismer PS	
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 Ceclia • 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	• St Stephen • St Padre Pio • St Andrew • Pine Grove PS • St John Bosco • Our Lady of the Rosary • Brownridge PS • Rosedale Heights PS • Maple Creek PS • Blessed Trinity • Fossil Hill PS	• Kleinburg PS • Elder's Mill PS • Our Lady of Fatima • St Angela Merici • St Margaret Mary • San Marco • Immaculate Conception CES • St Peter • St Gregory the Great Catholic School • St Clare • St Agnes of Assisi • St Emily • St Veronica • Velore Woods PS • Father John Kelly • Our Lady of Peace • Dr Roberta

Local Municipality	Phase One and Two Schools	Phase Three Schools	Phase Four Schools	Phase Five Schools
				Bondar PS • Herbert H. Carnegie PS • Carrville Mills PS • Thornhill Woods PS • Bakersfield PS • Wilshire PS • St Joseph the Worker
Whitchurch-Stouffville	• Whitchurch Highlands PS • Glad Park PS • Summitview PS • St Mark	• St Brigid • Stouffville South Central #1	• Ballantrae PS • Glad Park PS	• Harry Bowes PS • Oscar Peterson PS