

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Regional Council

FROM: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: September 23, 2010

RE: **Request to Federal Government to Bring Forward a National Childcare Strategy**

On September 15, 2010, the Community and Health Services Committee members requested that staff prepare, for Council's consideration, a resolution requesting that the Federal Government bring forward a national childcare strategy.

According to materials prepared by the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), "A comprehensive national early learning and child care program makes good economic sense. Parents can enter the workforce with confidence, knowing their children are being cared for in safe and stimulating environments.

Working parents pay more income taxes and have more money to spend locally, financially supporting their local communities. A strong child care sector also provides more employment and raises local economic competitiveness.

Canadian children deserve every opportunity to develop into healthy, competent, contributing members of our society. Providing young children with safe, nurturing environments in which to play and learn creates stronger families and communities, and ultimately a stronger society."

The discussion at the Community and Health Services Committee centered on concerns regarding the size of the waiting list for fee subsidy and the preference to have all three levels of government participate in the care and learning of young children. As such, and as per Committee's direction, the following resolution is presented for Council's consideration:

That the Regional Chairman write to the Federal Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, the Honourable Diane Finley, suggesting that the Federal Government has a role in supporting the nation's children and that a comprehensive national early learning and child care program be re-considered.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adelina Urbanski".

Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner
Community and Health Services