

**THE CITY OF TORONTO**

**Clerk's Department**

**Minutes of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee**

**Thursday, May 21, 1998**

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 1998, in Committee Room A, 2nd Floor, Metro Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:40 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Councillor Gordon Chong, Chair  
Councillor Elizabeth Brown  
Councillor Raymond Cho  
Councillor Olivia Chow  
Councillor Rob Davis  
Councillor Michael Feldman  
Councillor John Filion  
Councillor Joan King  
Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski  
Councillor Michael Prue

**Regrets:**

Mayor Mel Lastman  
Councillor George Mammoliti

**Confirmation of Minutes.**

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee held on April 23, 1998, were confirmed.

**66. Health and Safety Allocations for Hostels.**

The Committee had before it a report (April 27, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services recommending that:

- (1) the Department of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to administer 100 percent Provincial funds to hostels for minor capital needs;
- (2) the following allocations totalling \$70,813.95 be approved;

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	Shelter	Amount
(1)	Redwood (heating upgrades, camera)	\$ 9,220.75
(2)	WoodGreen - The Pines (5 flushometers, shower upgrades)	9,250.00
(3)	WoodGreen - Lawrence (major plumbing, heating, electrical work)	23,596.39
(4)	Fred Victor Women's Shelter (security camera)	1,432.00
(5)	Native Men's Residence (kitchen upgrades)	10,314.80
(6)	Parkdale Recovery Inc. (building upgrades)	17,000.00
	Total	<u>\$70,813.95</u>

- (3) 80 percent of these amounts be advanced to the hostels as soon as required, with the remaining 20 percent released after the work is completed and appropriate expenditure documents have been submitted; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

**(Clause No. 3, Report No. 5)**

**67. True Davidson Acres Home for the Aged -**

**Three-Year Accreditation Award.**

The Committee had before it a communication (May 4, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged on May 1, 1998, had before it a report from the General Manager, Homes for the Aged, indicating that the accreditation survey for True Davidson Acres by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation was carried out from January 18-20, 1998, and that the Home received a three-year award.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Committee received the aforementioned communication, and expressed its congratulations to the staff, the Home Advisory Committee, and volunteers at True Davidson Acres.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; General Manager, Homes for the Aged; Administrator, True Davidson Acres - May 21, 1998)

**(Clause No. 4(c), Report No. 5)**

**68. Purchase of Ontario Hydro Property - Maxwell Street.**

The Committee had before it a communication (May 11, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that North York Community Council on May 6, 1998, concurred in a motion by Councillor Howard Moscoe, North York Spadina, respecting the purchase of Ontario Hydro property on Maxwell Street, and wherein it recommended that:

- (1) staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, North York Civic Centre, be requested to contact Ontario Hydro immediately to indicate a desire to enter into discussions with respect to the purchase of the subject property;
- (2) if negotiations proceed to a conclusion, a further report be submitted to Council through the appropriate Standing Committee seeking approval to expend funds; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Feldman, the Committee referred the aforementioned communication to the Commissioner of Economic

Development, Culture and Tourism for a report thereon to the Corporate Services Committee following negotiations with Ontario Hydro.

(Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism;  
Councillor Howard Moscoe, North York Spadina - May 21, 1998)

**(Clause No. 4(d), Report No. 5)**

**69. Toronto District School Board - Pressures Resulting from Provincial Restructuring of Education Finance.**

The Committee had before it a communication (April 6, 1998) from Mr. John Davies, Director - Executive Council, Toronto District School Board, requesting the opportunity to appear before the Committee to discuss a number of issues resulting from the Provincial restructuring of education finance which have created considerable pressure on the ability of school boards to deliver services to the community.

The Committee also had before it a communication (May 19, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Children's Action Committee recommended:

- (1) that Council request the Toronto School Boards to place a moratorium on evictions of child care centres and family resource centres until the completion of the policy review processes by the School Boards; and
- (2) that Council request the Minister of Education to re-examine the funding formula in light of the negative impacts on children's services.

Ms. Gail Nyberg, Chair, and Mr. John Davies, Director - Executive Council, Toronto District School Board, appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter, and submitted a brief in regard thereto.

Councillor Cho, at the meeting of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee on May 21, 1998, declared his interest in the foregoing matter, in that he is a teacher on leave of absence from the Toronto District School Board.

Councillor Chow moved that:

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- (1) the Committee recommend to Council the adoption of the recommendations of the Children's Action Committee contained in the communication (May 19, 1998) from the City Clerk, subject to amending Recommendation No. (2) to read as follows:
  - “(2) that Council request the Provincial Minister of Education and the Minister of Community and Social Services to re-examine the education funding formula and the complete withdrawal of child care capital dollars in light of the negative impacts on children's services.”;
- (2) the aforementioned communication and brief from the Toronto District School Board be referred to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism with a request that they:
  - (a) obtain from the Toronto District School Board the following information:
    - (i) the number of leases and permits for child care centres, recreational and community uses;
    - (ii) the actual and projected enrolment (or change in class size) in each school that may result in eviction of child care centres and/or other community uses;
    - (iii) the actual cost to serve these child care centres and/or other community uses; and
    - (iv) the amount of space used versus the space funded under the new funding formula; and
  - (b) report jointly thereon to the June 18, 1998, meeting of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski moved that part (2) of the foregoing motion by Councillor Chow be amended to provide that the report requested includes the impact on non-profit groups using school facilities.

Councillor King moved that part (2) of the foregoing motion by Councillor Chow be amended to provide that the report requested includes the following:

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- (i) the anticipated increase in fees for recreation programs operating in the schools; and
- (ii) a response from the Ministry of Community and Social Services indicating whether it would be willing to provide its share of the existing funding formula should the City of Toronto's costs increase for the subsidized school-based child care spaces.

Councillor Chong appointed Councillor Feldman Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

Councillor Chong resumed the Chair.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion by Councillor King, it was carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion by Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski, amending part (2) of the foregoing motion by Councillor Chow, it was carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion by Councillor Chow, as amended, it was carried.

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committee:

“The Committee:

- (1) recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendations of the Children's Action Committee contained in the communication (May 19, 1998) from the City Clerk, subject to amending Recommendation No. (2) to read as follows:
  - “(2) that Council request the Provincial Minister of Education and the Minister of Community and Social Services to re-examine the education funding formula and the complete withdrawal of child care capital dollars in light of the negative impacts on children's services.”;
- (2) referred the aforementioned communication and brief from the Toronto District School Board to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism with a request that they:
  - (a) obtain from the Toronto District School Board the following information:

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- (i) the number of leases and permits for child care centres, recreational and community uses;
  - (ii) the actual and projected enrolment (or change in class size) in each school that may result in eviction of child care centres and/or other community uses;
  - (iii) the actual cost to serve these child care centres and/or other community uses; and
  - (iv) the amount of space used versus the space funded under the new funding formula; and
- (b) report jointly thereon to the June 18, 1998, meeting of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee, such report to include:
- (i) the impact on non-profit groups using school facilities;
  - (ii) the anticipated increase in fees for recreation programs operating in the schools; and
  - (iii) a response from the Ministry of Community and Social Services indicating whether it would be willing to provide its share of the existing funding formula should the City of Toronto's costs increase for the subsidized school-based child care spaces."

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Mr. John Davies, Director - Executive Council, Toronto District School Board - May 21, 1998)

**(Clause No. 2, Report No. 5)**

**70. Presentation by the Toronto District Health Council.**

The Committee had before it a communication (April 20, 1998) from Mr. Lorne Zon, Executive Director, Toronto District Health Council (TDHC), requesting the opportunity to brief the Committee on the following issues:

- Mandate and accountability of the TDHC;

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- Long Term Care Planning;
- Mental Health Services Planning;
- Hospital Restructuring;
- Homeless Task Force; and
- Community Services Inventory.

Mr. Lorne Zon appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

The Committee received the aforementioned communication and presentation.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Mr. Lorne Zon, Executive Director, Toronto District Health Council - May 21, 1998)

**(Clause No. 4(a), Report No. 5)**

**71. Response to Client Inquiries, Issues and Complaints in Social Services.**

The Committee had before it a report (April 30, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services describing how the Social Services Division responds to client inquiries, issues and problems related to the determination of eligibility or entitlements, including client complaints about service quality, staff conduct, and eligibility decisions, in working with the Division to address client issues; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The Committee also had before it a communication (May 20, 1998) from Mr. Denis Casey, Acting President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79, respecting the CUPE Local 79 members working on the front-lines as Social Services Caseworkers and the impact on these workers resulting from the introduction of the new Ontario Works Program.

The following persons appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. John Clarke, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty; and submitted a copy of "Who's Cheating Who? An Inquiry into the abuse of the poor by the welfare system conducted by the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP)"; and



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- Ms. Sue Collis, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, on behalf of Mr. Roddy Gangoo.

Councillor King moved that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services meet with officials from the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty to discuss ways in which the Department and OCAP can work together to address issues of concern with respect to the service delivery system, and report thereon to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Councillor Chow moved that:

- (1) the report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the communication from the Acting President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79 be received;
- (2) the OCAP document entitled "Who's Cheating Who?" be referred to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services for a report thereon to the Committee;
- (3) a sub-committee be established to review the Ontario Works Program Regulations; and
- (4) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to provide the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee with an annual report on the Client Services and Information Unit, the number of calls received and resolution of these calls, the intervention strategies, and any systemic changes of delivery method as a result of these inquiries.

Councillor Chong appointed Councillor Feldman Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair in order to speak to the foregoing matter.

Councillor Chong resumed the Chair.

The Chair suggested that part (3) of the foregoing motion by Councillor Chow be considered with the item on the agenda, headed "Analysis of Impacts of Ontario Works Regulations".

The Committee concurred in the foregoing suggestion.

Upon the question of the adoption of parts (1), (2) and (4) of the foregoing motion by Councillor Chow, they were carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion by Councillor King, it was carried.

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committee:

“The Committee received the aforementioned report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the communication from the Acting President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79; and further:

- (1) referred the OCAP document, entitled “Who’s Cheating Who?” to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services with a request that she meet with officials from the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty to discuss ways in which the Department and OCAP can work together to address issues of concern with respect to the service delivery system, and report thereon to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee; and
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to provide the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee with an annual report on the Client Services and Information Unit, the number of calls received and resolution of these calls, the intervention strategies, and any systemic changes of delivery method as a result of these inquiries.”

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Mr. John Clarke, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty; c. General Manager, Social Services Division - May 21, 1998)

**(Clause No. 4(b), Report No. 5)**

## **72. Analysis of Impact of Ontario Works Regulations.**

The Committee had before it a report (May 11, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an analysis of the immediate impacts related to the introduction of the new Ontario Works Act regulations, and a description of the Federal National Child Benefit Supplement to be introduced in July 1998; and recommending that:

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- (1) Council express its concerns to the Minister of Community and Social Services as they pertain to the negative impact of the regulations of Ontario Works on youth, dependent families, low income families, and individuals with special needs, as described in this report;
- (2) the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee seek a meeting with the Minister to discuss these concerns and seek the Minister's response to the recommendations contained in this report to remedy the problems;
- (3) this report be forwarded to the Ministers of Community and Social Services and Health; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Committee also had before it communications from the following in connection with the foregoing matter:

- (May 20, 1998) from Mr. Denis Casey, Acting President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79, in support of the recommendations embodied in the foregoing report of the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services;
- (May 20, 1998) from Ms. Jill Barber, Referral Coordinator, Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy, outlining concerns with respect to the Ontario Works Regulations; and
- (May 21, 1998) from Mr. Farid Chaharlangi, Community Development Worker, Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre, outlining concerns with respect to the Ontario Works Regulations.

The following persons appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Ms. Liz Klassen, on behalf of Toronto Legal Clinic;
- Mr. Keith Hambly, Fred Victor Centre;
- Ms. Catherine Hill, tenant of Fred Victor Centre;
- Ms. Karen Wirsig, Metro Network for Social Justice, and submitted a brief in regard thereto;
- Mr. George Panagapka, Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition, and submitted a brief in regard thereto; and

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- Mr. Tim Rourke, and submitted a brief in regard thereto.

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:29 p.m.

The Committee reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Gordon Chong, Chair  
Councillor Elizabeth Brown  
Councillor Raymond Cho  
Councillor Olivia Chow  
Councillor Rob Davis  
Councillor John Filion  
Councillor Joan King  
Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski  
Councillor Michael Prue

The Committee resumed consideration of the report dated May 11, 1998, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services headed "Analysis of Impacts of Ontario Works Regulations", and resumed hearing deputations in regard thereto:

- Ms. Angela Robertson, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, and submitted a brief in regard thereto;
- Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Workfare Watch Project, and submitted a brief in regard thereto;
- Mr. Denis Casey, Acting President, and Mr. Tim Maguire, Metro Unit Officer, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79;
- Ms. Magaly San Martin and Ms. Mary Gellatly, Parkdale Community Legal Services; and
- Ms. Josephine Grey, Executive Director, Low Income Families Together.

Councillor King moved that the Committee recommend to Council:

- (1) the adoption of the report dated (May 11, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; and
- (2) that a copy of the report of the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario with a request that the AMO Board of

Directors develop a strong municipal position for submission to, and the support of, the Association at its Annual General Meeting in August 1998.

Councillor Chow moved that:

- (i) the Committee recommend to Council that staff not implement any of the regulations which force family members apart until the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee has reported on the outcome of his meetings with the Minister of Community and Social Services.
- (ii) a sub-committee be established, comprised of Councillors Chow and Korwin-Kuczynski, to review the Ontario Works Program Regulations; and
- (iii) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report directly to Council for its meeting on June 3, 1998, on how the City would be able to:
  - (a) continue the drug deductible for working parents;
  - (b) continue to transfer the National Child Tax Benefit to low-income parents;
  - (c) continue to cover the 25 percent or the extra cost for items that are applicable under Special Assistance and Supplementary Aid; and
  - (d) continue to cover the Back to School and Winter Clothing Allowance for Youth.

Councillor Chong appointed Councillor Prue Acting Chair and vacated the Chair in order to speak to the foregoing matter.

The Chair verbally provided an update on his recent meeting with the Provincial Minister of Community and Social Services and Mr. Frank Klees.

Councillor Chong resumed the Chair.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion by Councillor King, it was carried.

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Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion by Councillor Chow, it was carried.

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committee:

“The Committee:

- (i) recommended to Council:
  - (1) the adoption of the report dated (May 11, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services;
  - (2) that staff not implement any of the regulations which force family members apart until the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee has reported on the outcome of his meetings with the Minister of Community and Social Services; and
  - (3) that a copy of the report of the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario with a request that the AMO Board of Directors develop a strong municipal position for submission to, and the support of, the Association at its Annual General Meeting in August 1998;
- (ii) established a sub-committee, comprised of Councillors Chow and Korwin-Kuczynski, to review the Ontario Works Program Regulations; and
- (iii) requested the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to report directly to Council for its meeting on June 3, 1998, on how the City would be able to:
  - (a) continue the drug deductible for working parents;
  - (b) continue to transfer the National Child Tax Benefit to low-income parents;
  - (c) continue to cover the 25 percent or the extra cost for items that are applicable under Special Assistance and Supplementary Aid; and
  - (d) continue to cover the Back to School and Winter Clothing Allowance for Youth.”

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Olivia Chow, Downtown; Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, High Park;  
c. General Manager, Social Services Division - May 21, 1998)

**(Clause No. 1, Report No. 5)**

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 3:50 p.m.

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Chair.