



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Opportunities to Support Advocacy Efforts

Date:	October 31, 2008
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	General Manager, Children's Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report reports back on how Children's Services has supported community advocacy efforts to expand child care in Toronto, including financial implications related to this support.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There will be no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

DECISION HISTORY

The Community Development and Recreation at its meeting of October 16, 2008, requested the General Manager of Children's Services to examine ways to support, within the current budget, community advocacy efforts to expand child care in Toronto. See <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/decisions/2008-10-16-cd19-dd.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

This report is a report back, as requested at the Community Development and Recreation meeting of October 16, 2008, while discussing additional Funding for Child Care and Ongoing Funding Pressures, and after hearing a deputation from the Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care (TCBCC) about provincial initiatives from their parent organization, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC). The OCBCC provincial fall campaign is called "The Crisis in Child Care". The TCBCC also gave examples of initiatives in other provinces – specifically Ontario's immediate neighbours Quebec and Manitoba. Initiatives in those provinces are aimed at helping parents find and pay for

child care. Both neighbouring provinces are increasing child care spaces, and are making child care more affordable for families. And they both have a long-term plan.

To date, Children's Services has posted the OCBCB materials on waiting for child care and events for the 8th Annual Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation day in all its district offices and in Municipal Child Care Services. These materials were circulated at the Child Care Advisory Committee of Toronto (CCAC) October 22, 2008 meeting by the TCBCB and will be included in the minutes with the link to the web site. These minutes are also posted on the Children's Services web site. The link will also go in the Children's Services end of month mail out which goes to approximately 1,000 child care operators, family support organizations and special needs resourcing agencies.

COMMENTS

Children's Services has increased awareness specific to community advocacy efforts to support child care in Toronto. There are no financial implications related to this support.

CONTACT

Petr Varmuza
Director, Operational Effectiveness
Children's Services Division
Tel. 416-392-8284
Fax 416-392-4576
Email: varmuza@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Nancy J. Matthews, General Manager of Children's Services

ATTACHMENTS