

TWCA Toronto Women's City Alliance

Making Equality Matter.

The Chair
Community Development and Recreation Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

23rd June 2015

Dear Councillor Pasternak,

I am writing on behalf of Toronto Women's City Alliance. We are a diverse group of women who have been organizing to end the growing silence and invisibility of girls' and women's voices and issues from the political agenda in the City of Toronto. TWCA works to ensure political commitment to addressing and removing barriers that many women face in accessing essential services.

In this instance, I am writing with regard to **Item CD 5.9 Child Care Funding Strategy**. The Report from the General Manager of Children's Services highlights a constantly recurring issue in our city: that of the need to expand our revenue base in order to provide the social services that are both crucial to the well-being of Toronto residents and expected of a world-class city.

Affordable childcare is a fundamental need in Toronto. We cannot in good conscience continue to rely on reserve funding while the waitlist for subsidized daycare continues to grow. In addition to being unethical, it is a disastrous mode of fiscal management. Furthermore, this untenable situation only harms parents and the City itself. Low-income families are in desperate need of affordable daycare, particularly women who are more likely to lead lone-parent households. We urge the Committee to take the steps needed to secure funding for childcare and carefully re-think the City's sources of revenue. Many social issues, including childcare, depend on it.

Sincerely,
Kara Santokie, PhD
Director
Toronto Women's City Alliance

Toronto Women's City Alliance

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