
From: Donna Spreitzer <jackman.donna@bellnet.ca>

Sent: May 10, 2018 5:57:00 PM

To: Councillor Carmichael Greb; Councillor MFord; Councillor Hart; Councillor Holyday; Councillor Matlow; Audit Committee

Cc: Mayor Tory; Councillor Davis; Bruna Corbesi; Donna @ Jackman

Subject: Support of AU12.2 Auditor General's Recommendations for Children's Services Division

May 10, 2018

To: Audit Committee: auditctte@toronto.ca

Councillor Christin Carmichael-Greb: councillor_carmichaelgreb@toronto.ca

Councillor Michael Ford: councillor_mford@toronto.ca

Councillor Jim Hart: councillor_hart@toronto.ca

Councillor Stephen Holyday: councillor_holyday@toronto.ca

Councillor Josh Matlow: councillor_matlow@toronto.ca

Cc: Bruna Corbesi, Auditor General's Office, Bruna.Corbesi@toronto.ca

Janet Davis, City Counsellor, councillor_davis@toronto.ca

Mayor John Tory: mayor_tory@toronto.ca

From: Donna Spritzer, RECE, Executive Director Jackman Community Daycare

Amy O'Neil, RECE

Lisa Tjernstrom, RECE, Director, Lakeshore Community Childcare Centre

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Barbara Yost, RECE, Executive Director, Denlow Community Child Care

Nancy Wilson, RECE, Executive Director, Cliffwood Community Child Care

Micheline Richard, RECE, Supervisor, Frankland Day Care Centre

Lisa Winters, RECE, Supervisor, Beatty Buddies Daycare

Neena Locke, RECE, Director, Red Apple Day Care

Branka Campbell, Supervisor, Brock Early Learning Centre

Irene Udo, Executive Director, Little Prints & Discoverability

Andrea Barrios, RECE, Executive Director, Victoria Park Child Care Centre

Daniela Durisova, RECE, Executive Director, UYVDC

Re: AU12.2 Report from the Auditor General to Children's Services

We are writing in support of the Auditor General's recommendations. The Report's title, "Children's Services Division: Opportunities to Achieve Greater Value for Child Care from Public Funds" is exactly what we had hoped from the Auditor's Review.

We take issue with Counsellor Janet Davis's rebuke of the Report. Her email's subject line is:

“Help Protect City Child Care Centres from Privatization.” Protecting city jobs at all cost is one of the reasons that the Auditor General has recommended “examining alternative service delivery options for city run centres.” The Auditor is not suggesting privatization, but rather moving towards non-profit management of city centres.

We, the 13 signers of this letter, are all Supervisors and Directors of non-profit childcare centres in the city. We all strive to pay our ECEs and Childcare Assistants a fair wage. We would love to earn what City Staff earn and we will continue to fight for fair wages. But Councillor Davis’s assertion that “transferring jobs to the non-profit sector to reduce salary costs and lower the bar will further exploit women” is missing the mark. Certainly the salary bar must be raised; however, it cannot happen by paying 3% of the workers a disproportionately higher salary. We support raising the bar for ALL WORKERS IN THE CHILD CARE SECTOR. It is therefore a better use of city funds to reinvest this money and spread it across the childcare sector. Just like Pay Equity targets were used to raise the pay of women, perhaps the City can implement a new wage strategy using existing city wages as targets for all childcare workers.

The Report also suggests that Children’s Services has been operating at a \$14.7 million annual shortfall. This suggests that city centres have not been operating in a sustainable way. This is shocking since Children’s Services requires all centres with purchase of service agreements to submit balanced budgets each year. It would seem that their own centres haven’t had to comply with these checks and balances.

We further support the Auditor’s Recommendation #18, that Children’s Services report back on the need to continue AQI. Childcare operators welcome the discontinuation of AQI. When the Ministry of Education modernized childcare and created the Child Care and Early Year’s Act, 2014, AQI became an unnecessary duplication of the Ministry’s provincial licensing requirements. To continue AQI in light of new provincial safeguards is simply another example of Children’s Services bureaucratic overreach. It seems apparent that Children’s Services has prioritized preserving the AQI department instead of redirecting this money to provide more subsidies and enhancing wages across the child care sector.

Furthermore, we do not agree with Counsellor Davis’s comments regarding quality. It is insulting that she states that not for profit centres do not offer the same high quality that City run Centres do. In fact, many non-profit child care centres have excellent AQI scores and working with the Ministry’s framework of *How Does Learning Happen*, we have raised quality beyond city benchmarks.

In conclusion, we support the Auditor General’s Report. As childcare professionals, we have hundreds of years of combined experience working with our city partners to provide high quality child care. We are passionate about child care. We want what is best for children, for families and for our professional staff. We urge the City’s Audit Committee to support all of the Recommendations from the Auditor General.

Sincerely,

Donna Spreitzer, RECE

On behalf of myself and the twelve other signers of this letter





Donna Spreitzer, RECE

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