

From: [Bill Sinclair](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Subject: FW: ECDC Committee and the Childcare Occupancy Grant
Date: June 24, 2019 3:30:09 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Councillor Thompson,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed elimination of the **Childcare Occupancy Grant** coming to the ECDC Committee. The elimination of this grant and the collective purchasing power of the City of Toronto with the school boards will have a direct impact on the affordability, accessibility, and quality of childcare in Toronto.

The removal of the occupancy grant would make regulated childcare even more expensive and put it farther out of reach for many families. We know that licensed childcare is already too costly for many parents in our city.

The Childcare Occupancy Grant serves two vital purposes:

- 1) It reduces the pressure on child care fees for parents – parents who pay the full fee and parents who receive a subsidy from the City of Toronto. Eliminating the grant will either drive up parent fees or simply apply even more financial pressure to the general operating grants to licensed child care centres. There are no savings to be had.
- 2) It is a smart, strategic, collective purchasing strategy to maintain consistent rents using affordable rates that were long negotiated with the school boards. Ending this arrangement will not only threaten the rent rates for small licensed centres, but puts at risk all of the City of Toronto school sites as well, as bulk purchasing is dismantled and diminished.

We have a child care affordability crisis, and we want to work with the City to expand licensed childcare to be accessible to more families. We do not want to be closing centres or destabilizing a system that took decades to develop.

St. Stephen's Community House operates currently in three TDSB schools and

this year we are expanding to a fourth TDSB school and two TCDSB schools. I am copying the three City Councillors for these sites. Please work with us to ensure fair and reasonable rents for all school child care sites in Toronto.

I urge you to reject the proposed elimination of the Childcare Occupancy Grant. I am happy to speak to you further on this issue!

Bill Sinclair, Executive Director (he/him)
St. Stephen's Community House

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, 91 Bellevue Ave.



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