



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Interest-Free Loan for Thorncliffe Park Day Care

Date:	June 4, 2007
To:	Community Development and Recreation
From:	General Manager, Children's Services
Wards:	Ward 26
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the City of Toronto provide an interest-free loan from the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund of up to \$150,000.00 to Thorncliffe Park Day Care. The loan is required for the purchase of a portable to house the school age program at Thorncliffe Park Elementary School.

Thorncliffe Park Day Care is located in a leased space in the Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre. This community centre will be undergoing renovation under a joint capital project with Children's Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Toronto Public Library. The construction on this facility will displace the Thorncliffe Park Day Care in early July 2007. The preschool children will be accommodated in portable facilities at the site. The school age children will be accommodated in the Thorncliffe Elementary School for the summer but will need a permanent facility by September 2007.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Children's Service recommends that:

- 1) approval be granted to provide an interest-free repayable loan to Thorncliffe Park Day Care, through the Toronto District School Board, of up to \$150,000.00 from the Child Care Capital Reserve for the purchase of a portable to house the school-age program at Thorncliffe Park Elementary School;
- 2) authority be granted to the General Manager, Children's Services to negotiate the agreement and execute it on behalf of the City and that the agreement have terms that are satisfactory to the General Manager and be in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor; and,
- 3) funds of up to \$150,000.00 be drawn from the Child Care Capital Reserve for this purpose.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendation contained in this report proposes an interest-free repayable loan to Thorncliffe Park Day Care of up to \$150,000 from the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a portable to house the school age program at Thorncliffe Park Elementary School. The loan would be recovered through child care per diem payments. The Thorncliffe Park Day Care will repay these costs directly to Children's Services on a monthly basis over a five year period. The Child Care Capital Reserve Fund, with a 2006 year end balance of \$13.4 million, has sufficient funds to support this recommendation. The loan satisfies the Reserve's criteria as amended by Council.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council on April 25, 26 and 27, 2006 adopted the staff recommendations in the recommendations section of the Community Services Committee Report, Approval of Thorncliffe Park child Care Centre.

See: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060425/cms2rpt/cl002.pdf>

City Council on March 6, 7 and 8, 2001 adopted the staff recommendations in the recommendations section of the Policy and Finance Committee Report, Policy for Capital Loan and Line of Credit Guarantees. TDSB meets the criteria outlined in Appendix A for consideration. See Appendix A.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2001/agendas/council/cc010306/pol2rpt/cl003.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Children's Services has a joint capital project at Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre in Thorncliffe Park with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Toronto Public Library. The portion related to the child care is included in the Children's Services 2007 Capital Budget. The community centre and library is being renovated and will include the current child care program. Children's Services is paying for the renovation (\$2M). Thorncliffe Park Day Care currently operates a toddler – school-age program with 89 spaces. The renovated space will accommodate infant – pre-school only, with a reduction of 5 toddler spaces and the 30 school-age spaces, however, 10 additional infant spaces will be made available and 22 school-age spaces off-site.

The portable to be located at Thorncliffe Park Elementary School will be for the 22 school-age children. The school is adjacent to the Thorncliffe Park Day Care and is the only licensed child care centre in the Thorncliffe Park community. This is why saving the school-age program is important.

COMMENTS

Construction on the Jenner Jean- Marie Community centre will displace the Thorncliffe Park Day Care early in July 2007. The pre-school children will be accommodated in portable facilities at the site. The school-age children can be accommodated in Thorncliffe Elementary School for 8 weeks of the summer if needed, but need a permanent facility for September 2007. The TDSB has agreed to order a portable on behalf of Thorncliffe Park Day Care subject to payment in full and to house the portable on school property. The timing of the order is critical if the portable is to be available in time for the children to move out of their current space and for construction to begin.

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SIGNATURE

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