

APPENDIX A – COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

This Appendix lists Toronto City Council recommendations related to the modernization of child care that resulted from staff reports on child care in Toronto.

City Council on **July 6, 7 and 8, 2010**, adopted the following

- City Council request that at the newly established Toronto/Ontario table, discussions include the following objectives
 - a. negotiating a transition agreement that ensures creation of a sustainable and integrated Early Learning Program in Toronto that reflects the size and complexity of the city's child care system
 - b. exploring more flexible funding models, including base funding, to address the affordability of child care to all families
 - c. developing new monitoring and reporting mechanisms that satisfy accountability and governance requirements, provide meaningful data to inform policy, and respect the City's role as consolidated municipal systems manager for children from pre-natal to 12 years of age; and
 - d. identifying strategies to address base funding pressures that increase by \$8 million per annum and will total \$35 million by 2012, resulting in service cuts of 3,500 subsidized spaces if not addressed.
- City Council request that the Province provide an additional \$27 million in base funding to address the affordability of child care for all families and \$13.5 million in capital funding to mitigate renovation costs in child care centres located outside of schools, with the timing of the provision of these funds to be addressed in the transition agreement identified in recommendation 1.
- City Council direct that when a provincial framework is available for the development of Child and Family Centres (CFC), Children's Services revise transitional and capital requirements, if needed, to ensure that CFC's in the community and in schools and their corresponding child care are sustainable, accessible and of high quality.
- City Council request that the Province take the necessary steps to ensure continuity of services for all children by ensuring that for each new subsidy dedicated to ELP the Province provide a corresponding new subsidy for school age.
- City Council forward this report to the Premier of Ontario and the Ministers of Children and Youth Services and Education to ensure that they are informed about the transitional and fiscal requirements of the City of Toronto with respect to ELP.
- City Council request the Minister of Education to
 - a. protect existing child care early learning spaces in schools and ensure sufficient funding to achieve this

- b. ensure that adequate supervision and hot lunches remain available in child care during the transition and be included and funded in Early Learning Programs when implemented; and
- c. amend the regulations to eliminate the costs of special needs resources and school space from the school board fees for Early Learning Program extended day programs.
- City Council adopt the following resolution
 - “Whereas, the vision of the Early Learning Programs was a seamless day with integrated programming for Early Learning Day Care for children 0-12 years; and
 - Whereas, this program is being implemented in a fragmented way with insufficient resources and effective governance models; and
 - Whereas, local government and community representatives are concerned that this fragmented implementation will create service gaps and impact on the lives and well-being of children in the City of Toronto;
 - Therefore, be it resolved that City Council request that the school boards join them in public consultation to create a strategy and communication with the Provincial government after the municipal elections”.

City Council on **July 12, 13 and 14, 2011**, adopted the following

- City Council receive the report, "Early Childhood Education and Care in Toronto: Funding the Future" attached as Appendix A to the report (June 15, 2011) from the General Manager, Children's Services.
- City Council request the General Manager to consider further development of the funding mechanisms contained in the report and undertake any necessary discussions with provincial officials.
- City Council forward the reports (June 15, 2011 and July 5, 2011) from the General Manager, Children's Services, including all appendices, which identify the challenges and funding needed to stabilize the child care and early childhood sector in Toronto, to the Premier of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Education, Provincial Opposition Leaders, all provincial political parties, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Human Resource Development Canada, all Federal Opposition Leaders, and all federal political parties.

City Council on **November 29, 30 and December 1, 2011**, adopted the following

- City Council communicate to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Education the urgent need for development of a child care stabilization and transition plan that ensures the availability of a sustainable, high quality and affordable child care system for all families.
- City Council reaffirm the importance of child care for working families to the economy of the City of Toronto.

- City Council reaffirm its request of January 26 and 27, 2010 that the Province of Ontario provide all of the necessary tools and resources necessary to support the transition to an Early Learning System and to ensure that the child care component of this system remains stable and sustainable. These tools and resources should include financial, legislative and policy supports that address
 - a. the regulatory changes required to ensure efficiencies in child care operations that focus on younger children
 - b. simplified and flexible funding formulas that enable base funding of child care programs and that ensure affordability for all families
 - c. \$27 million in transitional and operating funding to ensure that service levels are maintained during and following the transition to Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten (FDELK)
 - d. \$13.9 million in capital funding for child care centres located within schools; and
 - e. \$13.5 million in capital funding to support the reconfiguration of child care programs outside of schools so that they can address the needs of younger children.
- City Council also reaffirm its previous requests to the Province of Ontario that the provincial funding formula provide \$20 million to maintain existing service levels of 24,000 child care subsidies, recognize cost of living and other legitimate increases in operating costs, and ensure program quality and adequate qualified staffing.
- City Council request the Ministry of Education to consider changes to Day Nursery Act to
 - a. make age grouping changes, to encourage expansion of programs for preschool children
 - b. allow flexibility in groupings for child care operators affected by the introduction of full-day kindergarten
 - c. align child and full-day kindergarten; andrequest the General Manager, Children's Services to monitor the Ministry of Education's response and to report back regularly to the Community Development and Recreation Committee.
- City Council request the Ministry of Education to allow flexibility for child care centres which are not in schools to continue to escort kindergarten students to school and back from school during the transition years.
- City Council request the Province of Ontario to immediately revisit its capital allocation to Boards of Education and expand this policy to include child care requirements in both existing and new schools.
- City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services and the Medical Officer of Health to report on nutritional requirements for pre-school children currently in the Day Nursery Act and how nutritional requirements might be met within the full day learning.

- City Council forward a copy of the report (October 24, 2011) from the General Manager, Children's Services, to the Mayor's Child Care Task Force, the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board to inform their deliberations.
- City Council forward the report (October 24, 2011) from the General Manager, Children's Services as amended to all City of Toronto MPPs.
- City Council request the City Manager, in conjunction with the General Manager, Children's Services, to convene an intergovernmental meeting, as soon as possible and no later than February 29, 2012, to provide a briefing on the Transitional Issues Impacting Toronto's Child Care System, and invite all Toronto MPs, Toronto MPPs, School Board Trustees and Toronto City Councillors, and request that Children's Services staff provide information and logistical support for this meeting.
- City Council request that Members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee meet with members of the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board standing Committee(s) responsible for policy and planning related to the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten program, to share information and discuss implementation challenges, and request that Children's Services and school board staff provide information and logistical support for this meeting, and report to the January 11, 2012 meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the outcome of these discussions.
- City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services, to report back to City Council, through the Community Development and Recreation Committee, on the implications of the provincial budget on child care.
- City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services to develop a pamphlet and website page with easy-to-understand information on the funding needs and transitional challenges facing the child care system as a result of the implementation of full-day kindergarten in Toronto.
- City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services, in conjunction with Strategic Communications, to develop a strategy that focuses on opportunities that have no cost implications for the City, to increase media coverage and highlight the child care issues identified in the report (October 24, 2011) from the General Manager, Children's Services.

City Council on **July 11, 12 and 13, 2012**, adopted the following

- City Council request the Province to work with the City to develop a long-term strategy for Child Care funding.
- City Council again request the Premier of Ontario to ensure that the City of Toronto is able to sustain its current service level of 24,000 child care subsidized spaces by addressing the \$74.4 million in capital, operating, stabilization and transitional funding which is required due to the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten.