

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Monday, March 17th, 2014
TO: Community Development and Recreation Committee
FROM: Councillor Anthony Perruzza, Ward 8, York West
RE: CDRC 27.3 "Response to Proposed Legislative and Regulatory Changes for Child Care in Ontario"

Background:

Over the past year, a number of tragic infant and toddler deaths have taken place in unlicensed and, in many cases, illegal child care settings in Ontario. As we heard in the Parent summit, parents often have no choice but to access unlicensed care as a result the limited availability of licensed spaces or the cost of these spaces. In Toronto, only 20% children have access to licensed care. Only 22% of children under the age of 5 and living in poverty have access to a child care fee subsidy.

Recommendations:

To better address the early learning and child care requirements of our youngest children, I would like to move a motion that:

"Council formally request that the Minister of Education provide the capital and subsidy resources necessary to increase the number of fee subsidies available in Toronto by 2,690 and the number of licensed child care centres by 43. This will allow 50% of Toronto's children living in poverty and under five years of age to access high quality, licensed child care settings that addresses their developmental requirements and supports parental participation in the workforce."

Sincerely,

Anthony Perruzza
City of Toronto Councillor
Chair of Community Development and Recreation Committee