



December 18, 2013

To: Executive Committee

From: Councillor Mike Layton - Co-Chair, Aboriginal Affairs Committee

Re: Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (NCFST) has a long standing history in the City, serving Toronto's Aboriginal families and children. As Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee, I was contacted by Kenn Richard, the Agency's Executive Director, who outlined a number of concerns regarding the agency's financial situation generally and in relation to its childcare centre. I have met with the General Manager of Children's Services and understand that the division is putting solutions in place to stabilize the Native Child and Family Services of Toronto licensed child care program, located in Ward 43. The Local Ward Councillor supports the recommendations made here and has been part of the conversation with the General Manager of Children's Services.

Funding issues and concerns of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto do not rest exclusively with Children's Services, as the agency offers a diversity of human services and receives funding from number of City divisions, the Province of Ontario and the Federal government. City Divisions currently providing funding include Social Development, Finance and Administration, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Toronto Employment and Social Services, and Public Health.

I recommend to the Executive Committee that:

1. City Council request the Division Heads of Social Development, Finance and Administration, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Toronto Employment and Social Services, and Public Health, to work with officials with the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada to assist Native Child and Family Services of Toronto in developing a deficit reduction plan for the Agency, and to report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee in 2014 once this plan is complete.
2. City Council request that Social Development, Finance and Administration, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Toronto Employment and Social Services, and Public Health continue to assist Native Child and Family Services of Toronto in an effort to meet their needs to deliver services to residents.
3. City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services to work with Aboriginal Children Service Providers in the development of Toronto's new child care service plan, which could include the creation of an Aboriginal Criteria Policy for childcare subsidies.