



**Canadian Union of
Public Employees**

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*Toronto Community
Housing Corporation*

**SERVING OUR
MEMBERS
SINCE
1942**

CD13.11.1

DELIVERED BY EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

June 23, 2016

Councillor James Pasternak, Chair
And Members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Pasternak and Members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee:

RE: CD13.11 Centralized Child Care Waitlist

Local 79 supports the staff recommendation for a Provincial ban on wait list fees and for public information on waitlist and admission policies. Working families are already stretched to the limit. They cannot afford an additional fee on top of rising childcare costs along with mounting pressures from a shortage of childcare spaces.

With 11,526 children currently on the waitlist for a childcare fee subsidy and over 35,000 children on waitlists across the sector, there is an urgent need for both the City and Province to invest in childcare. Part of this investment should include a commitment from the City to establish a centralized system to help all families access childcare.

Anticipated changes to Provincial regulations will impact City services and staff. Regulatory changes also provide an opportunity for the City to move forward with its proposal for a centralized waitlist that would simplify the process for parents, provide more options, ensure transparency, equity and accountability, and offer valuable information for childcare sector planning.

CUPE Local 79 is requesting to be included in any consultations for the establishment of a City-wide centralized childcare waitlist. Our Children's Services staff members are dedicated, possess expertise in their field, and should be a part of this process.

As the Province releases the results of its consultations, the City should also be looking for opportunities to increase the number of affordable childcare spaces across the sector, including more directly-operated centres.

Yours truly,

Tim Maguire
President