

CD15.2.1



MAIN SQUARE DAY CARE CENTRE

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
General Manager
Toronto Children's Services

265 MAIN STREET
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4C 4X3
(416) 691-3909
FAX 691-9440

October 17, 2016

Dear Ms. Baxter-Trahair:

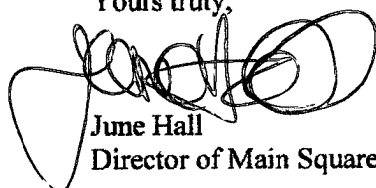
We are writing to express our concern about the apparent freeze on fee subsidies and the impact this is having on our families and child care centre operations. We believe it is essential for the City to lift the freeze and begin placing children in our centres immediately.

The freeze on placements occurred without notice, and at time of year with the highest demand. Currently, our centre has spots available for children who receive subsidies to begin our program in both our toddler and pre-school rooms. In addition, we have parents waiting to take those spots; parents who were in fact anticipating that they would have those spots. However, as a result of the City's freeze on fee subsidies, we cannot place those children in our Centre. We have been forced to operate with fewer spaces because there are no full fee parents to fill them. Some centres have laid off staff; many who are also mothers who need to work to keep their families afloat. This subsidy freeze therefore puts the financial security of daycare centres in jeopardy. In addition, even if we were able to fill all of our vacant spots with full fee parents, this strategy will reduce the number of subsidy spots available in our neighbourhood once this subsidy freeze is lifted. This would have a severe impact on our neighbourhood, and reduce the number of long-term subsidy spots available.


Our Centre's position is not unique. In East Toronto/East York (Wards 29, 30, 31, 32) there are over 1200 families waiting for a subsidy; city-wide it's almost 18,000. Our families need financial support to access good child care. Our centres need subsidies to remain financially viable.

We are asking you to take action now to support our families, our centres and our communities. Please increase fee subsidies now to make child care accessible and affordable for our families.

Yours truly,



June Hall
Director of Main Square Child Care Centre



Dena Bonnet
President, Board of Directors