



Orde Day Care

18 Orde Street Toronto, ON M5T 1N7 416.598.3412 fax 416.598.3625
132 St. Patrick Street Toronto, ON M5T 1V1 416.591.0040 fax 416.595.9916

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Dear Members of Toronto City Council

We are writing to you today to convey our concerns regarding the downloading of occupancy costs directly to our centre.

Orde Day Care is a non-profit organization which cares for 214 children between two locations in the downtown Toronto core. We offer care for children 0 – 12 years of age. We are vital part of the school community in Orde St. Public School and Contact Alternative Secondary.

As volunteer members of the Board of Directors we are very concerned with the possibility of our current occupancy grant covered by the City of Toronto being dissolved with the Toronto District School Board.

Our time and energy as a volunteer board is spent on ensuring the financial viability of our centre, while keeping our fees as affordable as they can be in the City of Toronto.

This is not an easy task. We must continually deal with fluctuating enrollment due to subsidy space freezes put in place by the City, programming costs to ensure a high-quality program, meeting the ever-changing requirements of the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years Act, and City of Toronto Quality Assurance Assessment Criteria, Toronto Public Health requirements and all the while continuing to provide a decent living wage for our staff who also reside in the City of Toronto.

As a unionized centre, we have a further commitment to staff compensation which places additional pressure on our affordability. We have consistently raised fees each year, another mid year hike will cause further financial stress on our already stretched families.

The estimated increase due to occupancy costs provided by the City of Toronto in recent new releases, is not reflective of the true cost the centre will face if these fees are downloaded to our centre.

By way of example our Satellite site, which offers care to our youngest population, is 6438 sq ft. The current cost paid to the Toronto District School board for our occupancy is \$6.50 per sq foot. When the occupancy cost is calculated using these figures the cost would be an additional expense of \$41847 to the centre.

This would be divided by the 49 families that this centre currently serves, which would mean an increase of \$854 per year, \$71.68 per month or \$3.38 increase per day. This is far and above the \$1.35 per day increase outlined in the recent news paper articles.

Our greatest fear however is the with the dissolution of the occupancy grant, it will allow the Toronto District School Board to align their rental charges with the current before and afterschool program rental fees. This rental charge is based on \$11.36 per sq foot. At this rate the increase to this centre would be \$73,135



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We strongly oppose the direction the City of Toronto is taking in the 2017 budget discussion. Toronto has the highest daycare fees in the country, along with the highest rental and housing costs. Adding further pressure to the families of City of Toronto, will be detrimental to the viability of the entire city, when living and working in Toronto becomes completely unaffordable for families.

On behalf of Orde Day Care Board of Directors;

Jennifer Meldrum, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer', written in a cursive style.