

BU30.1.166

Mr. Gary Crawford, Chair
City of Toronto Budget Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

January 16, 2017

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Federation of University Women North Toronto. CFUW is strongly committed to accessible, affordable, and comprehensive early learning and child care programs. Many studies have shown that high quality, licensed, child care is not only beneficial to children and families, but is also part of the economic health of a city. According to statistics published by the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada there has been a shockingly rapid rise in the cost of child care. Toronto has the highest child care costs in Canada. We understand that for the 2017 proposed City of Toronto budget, staff have recommended reducing the Children's Services Operating Budget by \$5M. To reduce children's services seems a very backward step for the future of the city.

We therefore as a concerned organization strongly urge you and city council to:

1. Increase fee subsidies to support the child care capital plan which will build additional licensed spaces in addition to the fee subsidies approved by Council in 2016.
2. Maintain the School Board Occupancy Grants, and call on the Ministry of Education to pay for child care accommodation costs in schools.
3. Keep the Capri Child Care Centre serving a TCHC community open.
4. Implement the second year of the Child Care 5-Year Sustainability Plan to increase base budget and reduce draw from Expansion Reserve by \$2M as approved by Council in 2016.

We urgently request that you do not make any cuts to the child care budget. It is children, parents, and ultimately the economy of our city that suffers.

Sincerely,



Moira A. Hudgin
President, CFUW North Toronto
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