

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

Dear Mr. Crawford:

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Caucus of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Our members are representatives of the six clubs in the City of Toronto. We are very concerned that you are contemplating, on the recommendation of your staff, reducing the budgets of all city departments including child care services. We are particularly concerned with the programs for children in the subsidized spaces in preschool child care centres and in the school-based child care programs.

A little background...a few years ago the Toronto Caucus was made aware of a report from the Toronto Community Foundation highlighting the increasing rate of poverty in our city. We participated in several initiatives including bringing attention to the Unemployment Insurance Rate being less helpful to Toronto residents. However, we kept coming back to the fact that one of the greatest needs was for affordable, universally accessible, high quality child care. Our national organization has had policy on the need for such a program since the 1980s! For several years now we have had research to show that Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) is beneficial to the development of the whole child as well as contributing to the economic welfare of the family and the larger community.

We understand the monthly fee for good quality child care in Toronto is \$1,400.00. There are now 14,000 families on the waiting list for subsidized spaces. This budget cut, if it is implemented, will increase this number as fewer parents will be able to afford licensed spaces.

Our recommendations include:

1. Increase the fee subsidies as outlined in the child care capital plan which will build a significant number of additional licensed spaces.
2. Maintain the School Board Occupancy Grants so that there will be no increase in fees for parents.
3. Keep Capri Child Care open.
4. Implement the second year of the Child Care 5-year Sustainability Plan to increase the base budget and reduce the draw from the Expansion Reserve by \$2M as approved by Council in 2016.



# Toronto Caucus

THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER

Researchers from one of our own universities have demonstrated that for every dollar invested in ELCC our community will benefit by approximately \$1.70. We lend our voices and support to others in our city who request that no cuts be made to the child services budget. Parents in our community should be supported in raising their children which ultimately benefits our entire community.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret J. McGovern  
Chair, Toronto Caucus  
Canadian Federation of University Women  
Email: [mjmcgovern@sympatico.ca](mailto:mjmcgovern@sympatico.ca)