



**June 5, 2017**

Councillor James Pasternak, Chair  
Members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Dear Councillor Pasternak and Members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee,**

**Re: CD21.10 Child Care and Early Years Active and Education Act Next Steps for Middle Childhood Programs**

Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto (MCMCT) is an active group of concerned social service agencies and community members with a long-standing commitment to working together with parents to increase access to high-quality out-of-school programs for all children ages 6-12 in Toronto.

Firstly, we would like to applaud the collaborative approach Children's Services has taken to understanding and implementing the legislative changes and their commitment to ensure existing programs are not disrupted through this process. Several of our Coalition Members have attended consultations and continue to provide input throughout the implementation.

We would like to strongly encourage the Committee to accept the recommendations put forward by Children's Services in CD21.10. Most importantly, we would like to reiterate the need for affordable programs and increased access in low income and underserved neighbourhoods. While the Province can play a significant role in providing subsidies, Councillors must consider other steps if this is not successful. We regularly hear from families and services providers about the urgent need for affordable programs.

We also support the City's recommendation to defer authorization until further research can be done in this area. Like the City, our Coalition has several concerns around how authorization would be implemented and what it would mean for existing service providers, especially those small, grassroots groups. When authorization is implemented there should be funds attached for training, resources and subsidies and flexible criteria should be developed to ensure the continuum of recreational programs in certain communities which fill a need.

Finally, we would like to offer our support to the City as you investigate next steps. We have more than 20 members which represent a diverse cross-section of service providers and a team of 10 parent leaders who have a vast array of valuable lived experiences.



We thank you in advance for protecting families who are relying on important social recreational programs. For more information about Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto or to meet with us, please contact our project coordinator, Shaden Jabahi at [shaden@middlechildhoodmatters.ca](mailto:shaden@middlechildhoodmatters.ca) or 647-210-4105.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Edward". The signature is written over the printed name "Ian Edward".

Chair, Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto