

# EX31.2.6

**From:** [Saint John XX111 Early Learning Program](#)  
**To:** [Budget Committee](#); [Mayor Tory](#)  
**Cc:** [Councillor Burnside](#)  
**Subject:** Calling for more affordable Child Care in the City Budget  
**Date:** Thursday, February 1, 2018 5:06:21 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Hello Mayor Tory, Councillor Burnside and the Budget Committee:

On behalf of our 300 parents, 40 staff and 9 board members, we thank you for approving a further investment in childcare on January 23<sup>rd</sup> in the amount of \$2.1 million, but the City is receiving a huge investment in new childcare funding from the Province and the City had committed to match with 20% of City dollars which would be \$11.2 Million and to date the Budget committee has only contributed \$2.1 million from reserves.

The City needs to commit their share and the money should be directed to funding into the FRONTLINE staff where it can have the GREATEST IMPACT for Families, Affordable Fees and Quality of Care.

We would like to urge you to DIRECT the Funding to:

1. Child Care Subsidies so that more low and middle income families can access a child care space
2. Child Care Per Diems - Pay Child Care programs their FULL Daily Rate – just as you do with your own City run programs, because that Gap between Actual Costs and the Per Diems paid by the City – is ONE VERY BIG REASON why Parents Fees keep going up.

We look forward to a favorable outcome at City Council and would like to see the City's investment in Childcare to make sure that the money is spent on decreasing parent fees, increasing subsidies for families who are on the waiting list, increase front line salaries and to match the centers per diems.

Thank you,

Neena Locke

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