

To: [councilmeeting@toronto.ca](mailto:councilmeeting@toronto.ca)

**Subject: My comments for 2021.DM38.1 on December 15, 2021 City Council**

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the December 15, 2021 City Council meeting on item 2021.DM38.1, Affordable and Accessible Childcare for All - Update on Federal-Provincial Negotiations - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson.

My name is Kathryn Firth, and I am the Executive Director at **Studio 123** Early Learning Centre we provide critical early learning and care for 30 families in South District of downtown Toronto.

Currently, Toronto families pay the highest child care fees in Canada. The cost of child care is often the equivalent to carrying a second rent or mortgage each month. Many families struggle to access a space, let alone afford one. We are seeing every other province sign the federal child care agreement, yet Ontario is falling behind. Toronto child care centres have yet to fully recover from the pandemic and we continue to face a staffing crisis.

I have a wonderful, passionate staff who work hard and truly care about the difference they can make in a young child's life. Without proper funding, I cannot pay these people what they deserve. They provide our clients with the utmost care, keeping in constant communication and solving children's struggles together as a community. Our work here is so important. We much like the TDSB are helping shape the future. We only ask that all families have access to our exceptional and altruistic work.

We need the Mayor and City Council to negotiate with the Ontario government to get the federal child care agreement signed. Or, to seek out getting an agreement signed directly with the federal government. Our families and community are counting on you to advocate for our needs. We can't wait any longer.

I look forward to seeing the city take swift action to prioritize the children, families and the child care workforce in our community by getting the federal child care agreement signed.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Firth  
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