

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM37.13	ACTION			Ward: All
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Affordable and Accessible Childcare for All - Update on Federal-Provincial Negotiations - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services to provide an update to the Economic and Community Development Committee at its meeting scheduled for December 1, 2021:
 - a. on the status of negotiations with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada regarding agreements and the flow of funding for the National Childcare Strategy investment announced in the 2021 Federal Budget; and
 - b. with options for the City of Toronto to partner directly with the Government of Canada if an agreement is not reached with the Province of Ontario.

Summary

Affordable, accessible, high-quality child care is critical for our pandemic recovery. Parents won't go back to work they can't find space at a child care centre within their budget. This affects women the most, who have long disproportionately shouldered the burden of unpaid labour in the home, who were more likely to stay home while students were learning remotely, and who tend to be employed more often in industries that have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

Looking ahead to the recovery, it is more important than ever to help parents get back into the workforce. And over time, these benefits to families and society will pay off with interest: access to safe, high quality child care supports the healthy growth and development of all children.

The Government of Canada announced in the spring a commitment to build a national early learning and child care system, and has since signed agreements with eight provinces and

territories. Ontario and the Federal Government have yet to sign a deal.

This is an urgent matter for Torontonians. We are requesting City staff bring an update to the next meeting of the Economic and Community Development Committee, including options for the City of Toronto to partner directly with the Government of Canada if necessary.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM37.13