

From: [Megan Wilkinson](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#); [Clara Ganemtare](#)
Cc: [Sherry Kamali](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Item 2026.EC30.2: Building Local Capacity to Deliver Child Care in High Inequity Neighbourhoods
Date: July 13, 2026 1:28:50 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Dear Clara and Economic and Community Development Committee

Christie Refugee Welcome Centre (CRWC) is an emergency family shelter in Toronto serving refugee claimant families — the majority of whom are Black single mothers from Africa. Through our Career Entry Pathway initiative, we have identified lack of affordable, extended-hours childcare as one of the most significant barriers preventing our clients from accessing employment and training opportunities.

I would like to share with you a project we are currently developing, a model we are calling an extended-hours, home-based childcare ecosystem — designed both to increase access to licensed childcare outside of standard daytime hours, and to create employment pathways for refugee women who want to work in childcare.

The proposed model works as follows:

- CRWC would recruit and support a small cohort of CRWC clients to become licensed home childcare providers, in partnership with a licensed home childcare agency in priority zones identified in Toronto's CWELCC Directed Growth Plan.
- Participants would complete comprehensive training covering childcare practice, communication, financial literacy, and small business basics — co-developed with licensed home child care agency and other training partners.
- CRWC would provide wraparound support including mentorship, housing assistance, and settlement services.
- Graduates would be contracted to the licensed agency as providers offering culturally sensitive, extended-hours childcare serving single-parent refugee families who qualify for City of Toronto Child Care Subsidy.

While CRWC is located outside the priority wards identified in this report, our clients live and move across the city — particularly into more affordable communities in Scarborough, Weston, and Etobicoke. A pilot would be situated in one of those priority zones, creating licensed capacity directly where it is most needed.

We believe this model is well aligned with the City's goals under item EC30.2 —

particularly the focus on building capacity in the home child care sector and engaging Black-serving and equity-focused organizations. We would welcome the opportunity to connect with Toronto Children's Services to explore whether a partnership to deliver this pilot project could be possible, and if City of Toronto Child Care Subsidy could cover strictly extended hours childcare.

Thank you so much,

Warmly

MeganMegan Wilkinson (she/her)

Special Projects Coordinator -Employment & Settlement

Christie Refugee Welcome Centre (CRWC)

416-588-1062

WhatsApp: +1 (647) 883-7016

43 Christie Street, Toronto, ON M6G 3B1

megan_wilkinson@christiestreetrc.com

www.christiestreetrc.com



We serve and advocate for refugee families