

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT 20
JUNE 23, 2021**

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**COMITÉ DES SERVICES COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE PROTECTION RAPPORT 20
LE 23 JUIN 2021**

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES 20
COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
JUNE 17, 2021**

**EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU PROCÈS-VERBAL 20
COMITÉ DES SERVICES COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE PROTECTION
LE 17 JUIN 2021**

1. COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACTS, SUPPORTS AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS SECTOR AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES WORK PLAN UPDATE 2021-2022

ACS2021-CSS-GEN-0009

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. **Receive this report for information on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the child care and early years sector and the ongoing supports to families, children and service providers.**
2. **Approve the updated Children's Services Work Plan 2021-2022 as outlined in this report.**
3. **Reaffirm the City of Ottawa's support for building a national child care program and system of early learning and child care services that focuses on increased access, affordability, quality and responsiveness which is essential to the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery by directing staff to actively monitor federal developments and engage in provincial planning discussions as outlined in this report.**

Jason Sabourin, Director, Children's Services and Tracy Gierman, Program Manager, Child Care System Planning and Program Support gave a PowerPoint on items 1 and 2 in tandem. A copy of their PowerPoint is held on file with the City Clerk's office.

Following the presentation, the Committee heard from delegations for Item 2 and questions for both Items 1 and 2 were fielded at the same time and can be found under Item 2 as the concentration of questions were based on the Pinocchio Centre.

Most have learned that with the pandemic, childcare is an essential service and impacts men and women differently and has more importance to some other services the city provides. Can the City look at expanding its mandate?

The plan and report talk about all of that. The national plan may change things drastically. Staff stated that they are not looking at expanding the City's service as they did not get direction from Council on this. Donna Gray, General Manager, Community and Social Services commented that they are currently looking at impacts during Covid. There is a national focus on daycare, and they are looking at direction from province. In future, this plan will give them an opportunity to look at gaps since last approved by Council. This gives us an opportunity to reassess and bring back to council in 2023 to better understand the national goal. Council can change the mandate and this report would give council the opportunity to do that

Councillor Egli introduced a motion for Item 1.

Motion CPS 2021 20/1

Moved by Councillor K. Egli

Whereas, on April 19, 2021, the Federal Government announced \$30 billion in new investment over the next 5 years, and \$8.3 billion ongoing for Early Learning and Child Care and Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care starting in 2021-22 to move towards a universal child care system; and,

Whereas Children's Services staff support building a national program and system of early learning and child care services that focuses on increased access, affordability, quality and responsiveness; and,

Whereas A robust Early Learning system is essential for families especially women and those disproportionately impacted and vitally important to Ottawa's economic renewal; and,

Whereas A national program has the potential to make significant positive impacts and address issues that families and service providers face, both historically and those further exacerbated as a result of the pandemic; and,

Whereas due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Province delayed a previously proposed change to the City of Ottawa's Child Care funding allocation for program delivery and administration to 2022; and,

Whereas the currently proposed cost-sharing funding changes, now planned to take effect in 2022 will cause financial pressures on the child care sector while it is still recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

Whereas recommendation 3 of the staff report recommends Council reaffirm the City of Ottawa's support for building a national child care program and system of early learning and child care services that focuses on increased access, affordability, quality and responsiveness which is essential to the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery by directing staff to actively monitor federal developments and engage in provincial planning discussions;

Therefore be it Resolved that Committee recommend Council request that Mayor Watson and the Chair of Community Protective Services Committee send a follow up letter to Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Education Stephen Lecce requesting that the proposed cost-sharing funding changes be eliminated as the impacts would significantly affect the sector, and subject to Council approval, reaffirming the City of Ottawa's support for building a National program, which is essential to the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery, and would benefit families, children, social well-being and the economy.

The report recommendations were CARRIED as amended by Councillor Egli's motion.