



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Community Services Committee Meeting
Monday, September 18, 2017
Tom Davies Square

COUNCILLOR RENE LAPIERRE, CHAIR

Mike Jakubo, Vice-Chair

6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM C-11

City of Greater Sudbury Council and Committee Meetings are accessible and are broadcast publically online and on television in real time and will also be saved for public viewing on the City's website at: <https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca>.

Please be advised that if you make a presentation, speak or appear at the meeting venue during a meeting, you, your comments and/or your presentation may be recorded and broadcast.

Your information is collected for the purpose of informed decision-making and transparency of City Council decision-making under various municipal statutes and by-laws and in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001, Planning Act, Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the City of Greater Sudbury's *Procedure By-law*.

For more information regarding accessibility, recording your personal information or live-streaming, please contact Clerk's Services by calling 3-1-1 or emailing clerks@greatersudbury.ca

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

CONSENT AGENDA

(For the purpose of convenience and for expediting meetings, matters of business of repetitive or routine nature are included in the Consent Agenda, and all such matters of business contained in the Consent Agenda are voted on collectively.

A particular matter of business may be singled out from the Consent Agenda for debate or for a separate vote upon the request of any Councillor. In the case of a separate vote, the excluded matter of business is severed from the Consent Agenda, and only the remaining matters of business contained in the Consent Agenda are voted on collectively.

Each and every matter of business contained in the Consent Agenda is recorded separately in the minutes of the meeting.)

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- C-1. Report dated August 31, 2017 from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) Affordable Rental Innovation Fund. **4 - 8**
(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
(This report will provide information on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) Affordable Rental Innovation Fund.)
- C-2. Report dated August 31, 2017 from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Child Care Access Expansion. **9 - 57**
(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
(This report will update the Committee on the Provincial and local plans to increase access to licensed child care within our community.)
- C-3. Report dated August 31, 2017 from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Graphic-Con Event Update. **58 - 65**
(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
(This in an information report regarding Graphic-Con Event held in the City of Greater Sudbury.)
- C-4. Report dated September 1, 2017 from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Needle Recovery Bins. **66 - 68**
(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
(This report identifies the install of 4 syringe recovery and needle bins in the downtown core.)

REGULAR AGENDA

MANAGERS' REPORTS

- R-1. Report dated August 31, 2017 from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) . **69 - 73**
(RESOLUTION PREPARED)
(This report provides information about the increased allocation to the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Fund.)

ADDENDUM

CIVIC PETITIONS

QUESTION PERIOD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICES OF MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

For Information Only

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) Affordable Rental Innovation Fund

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Sep 18, 2017
Report Date	Thursday, Aug 31, 2017
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only

Resolution

For Information Only

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report supports the Strategic Plan adopted by the City of Greater Sudbury, as it aligns with Quality of Life and Place priority regarding participating in senior government housing initiative programs to develop senior's affordable housing and provide funding for low income households making their housing more affordable.

This report will have a positive impact on the Social Determinants of Health in the area of Economic Vitality as the funding will offset some of the capital costs for private developers associated with building affordable housing.

Report Summary

This report discusses Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) Affordable Rental Innovation Fund and the regulations governing the fund. Applications for funding under this program will be accepted until all available funds have been committed. Due to the technical and innovative requirements of the program only a portion of the funding has been awarded by CMHC to date. Opportunities to pursue funding under this initiative will be reviewed as part of Social Housing Revitalization Plan and/or other housing development opportunities.

Financial Implications

There are no financial impacts on the City of Greater Sudbury.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Cindi Briscoe
Manager, Housing Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Health Impact Review

Cindi Briscoe
Manager, Housing Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Manager Review

Cindi Briscoe
Manager, Housing Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Financial Implications

Apryl Lukezic
Co-ordinator of Budgets
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Background

Overview - Affordable Rental Innovation Fund

The goal of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) Affordable Rental Innovation Fund (Fund) is to encourage new funding models and innovative building techniques in the rental housing sector. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is looking for unique ideas that will revolutionize the sector. In the process, the \$200M Fund is expected to help create up to 4,000 new affordable units over five (5) years, and will reduce reliance on long-term government subsidies.

Who is eligible?

Funding is available to eligible individuals, corporations and organizations that want to build affordable rental housing in Canada in response to demonstrated community need. Eligible applicants include municipalities, private sector developers and builders, and non-profit housing providers (including faith-based organizations).

Criteria

Applications to the Fund must be for affordable rental housing and must meet the minimum criteria as follows:

1. **New affordable rental housing units**
Minimum of five (5) new units must be created to qualify for the Fund (*renovation or retrofit projects may not be eligible if new units are not created*).
2. **Innovative models of design or financing models**
Applicants must demonstrate the use of innovative solutions for affordable rental housing. This may include the use of customized financing models or unique designs use to overcome rental barriers and lower the costs and risks associated with housing projects.
3. **Unit affordability maintained for at least ten (10) years**
Applicants must demonstrate how their project will remain affordable rental for at least 10 years. Applicants will score better with longer affordability periods.
4. **Resource efficiencies in the design**
Applicants must demonstrate how their projects will achieve a minimum 10% decrease in energy intensity and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to similar projects constructed to building code requirements of their respective jurisdictions.
5. **Accessibility features must be included**
At least 10% of the units of a project must meet accessibility requirements.

Accessible features may include: ramps, lifts, modified kitchens, bathrooms, and home automation.

6. Plans for viability and sustainability without long-term government subsidies

Units must demonstrate that they can be viable without the need for ongoing government subsidies after the ten (10) year agreement has passed.

Affordability levels are based on the provincial definition of affordable, which is 80% of CMHC's average market rent. There are no minimum unit sizes, but to be considered a unit, it must have its own bathroom and full kitchen (hot plates would not qualify as a kitchen).

Other facts that may be included in scoring

Projects with added value, for example where designed with higher impact through replicable designs, easy access to transit or where the proposed project serves vulnerable households, will be reviewed more favourably.

Funding amounts

Applicants must be able to support the level of funding they require to ensure the project will be viable. The amount and type of funding will vary based on proposals received and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation may require security depending on the proposal. In addition to forgivable loans and contributions, innovative funding options will be available to proponents. These options may include: equity capital investments, minority ownership models, dividend payments, or other innovative arrangements.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Affordable Rental Innovation Fund is being used to help build additional affordable housing units across the country and not for the continued operating dollars for such projects. The goal is to encourage new funding models and innovative building techniques in the creation of new rental units. In order to attract a diverse range of proposals, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will not place restrictions on tenure type, building form, or category of residents targeted to move into the rental units once built.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Affordable Rental Innovation Fund is not intended to be stacked with larger forms of government support, as this type of funding would not allow the project to be sustainable over time.

The i3 Committee

The i3 Committee has representatives from the federal government and experts from various sectors (e.g., financial, lending, academia and innovation). Applicants may have the opportunity to pitch directly to the i3 Committee, who might challenge their

proposals to help draw out the most innovative approaches and ideas. The i3 Committee will then make approval and funding recommendations to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Application and Approval Process

The call for proposals opened on September 30, 2016. Online applications are currently reviewed on an ongoing basis, and funding announcements will be made every quarter. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will require the ability to use information and ideas submitted by the applicant for research and evaluation, while taking intellectual property rights and confidentiality into consideration. Proposals that meet the criteria will be referred to the i3 Committee for further review. Proposals that may not meet all the criteria but show potential will be referred to an Innovation Lab for further refinement and potential resubmission to the i3 Committee for consideration. If a proponent's proposal is not chosen to move forward at either of these levels, they may be invited to resubmit at a later date based on the feedback received.

Funds are available for five (5) years or until all funds are assigned, whichever comes first. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has final decision-making authority on the selection of proposals.

The Innovation Lab

The Innovation Lab is an incubation hub within Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The Lab will provide access to technical resources and input for projects that have great potential but aren't quite ready for funding. The Innovation Lab will aim to help the project become ready to appear before the i3 Committee.

Next Steps

Pending the outcome of the Social Housing Revitalization Plan and/or other housing development opportunities, applications will be made to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Affordable Rental Innovation Fund as a potential funding option.

References

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation website; Affordable Rental Innovation Fund; <https://www.Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/afhoce/affordable-rental-innovation-fund.cfm>

For Information Only

Child Care Access Expansion

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Sep 18, 2017

Report Date Thursday, Aug 31, 2017

Type: Correspondence for Information Only

Resolution

For Information Only

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report supports the Strategic Plan adopted by the City of Greater Sudbury, as it aligns with the Quality of Life and Place pillar, within the priority: Create programs and services designed to improve the health and well-being of our youth, families and seniors.

The Ministry of Education's plan to increase access to licensed child care for 100,000 children in the province will support families in their employment and education activities, as well as those with a medical or social need for child care. Service data will be collected to ensure that child care access is increased, and that families' needs are being met through revised and updated policies.

Report Summary

In September 2016, the Ministry of Education announced the plan to expand access to licensed child care for 100,000 additional children across the Province, over a five year period.

In June 2017, new provincial funding announcements were made, and the City of Greater Sudbury received its allocation for expansion of access to licensed child care. The new funding is comprised of provincial, as well as new federal funding reflecting the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCC). This increase in funding to the City is approximately \$2.5 million for 2017, with the potential to carry it forward into 2018, based on projected spending.

Provincial guidelines dictate that this funding is to support an increase in child care fee subsidies for

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Monique Poirier
Manager of Children Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Health Impact Review

Monique Poirier
Manager of Children Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Division Review

Luisa Valle
Director of Children and Citizen Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Financial Implications

Apryl Lukezic
Co-ordinator of Budgets
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

families; expansion of licensed child care spaces in school and community buildings; and operational and policy changes that will benefit families and increase access to licensed child care programs.

The City's Children Services Section is working in collaboration with community partners such as licensed child care providers, school boards and other children services agencies, to develop a plan to maximize the use of this expansion funding, and increase access to licensed child care for 300 children 2017/2018.

Financial Implications

The 2017 funding allocation from the Ministry of Education for this child care access expansion is approximately \$2.5 million, and represents 100% provincial funding. There is no impact on the municipal tax levy.

BACKGROUND

In September 2016, the Ministry of Education announced the plan to expand access to licensed child care for 100,000 additional children across the Province, over a five year period.

In June 2014, City Council approved the Child Care System Review report which recommended changes to ensure a high quality, efficient child care system that could operate within the new funding reality and would be positioned to weather potential future funding reductions.

(<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=731&itemid=8570&lang=en>)

At the May 15th, 2017 Community Services Committee meeting, a report was brought forward titled “Child Care System Review Update”, which provided an update on progress made to date on the main recommendations in the 2014 System Review. <http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=1&id=1202>)

Further information has been announced by the Ministry of Education with regards to the Child Care Expansion and the Children Services Section is working with the community on potential strategies to ensure that the community is achieving the targeted expansion for approximately 300 children for year one of this five year Provincial initiative.

CHILD CARE EXPANSION

Subsequent to the Ministry of Education's announcement in September 2016, a series of public consultations were held across the province to learn how to enhance the early years and child care system, including one held in the City of Greater Sudbury. These consultative sessions included parents, caregivers, early years professionals, municipalities, school boards, employers, Indigenous partners and other key stakeholders.

As a result of the consultations, the Province published the document “[Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework](#)” (Appendix A), which outlines the Province's plan to transform Ontario's early years and child care system.

The Province identified a number of challenges within Ontario's early years and child care system which fall into the following four broad areas:

1. Child care has become unaffordable for many of Ontario's lower and middle class families
2. Too many parents and caregivers struggle to access quality care options
3. It is often hard to recruit and retain qualified early childhood educators and additional support is needed to improve the quality of care
4. The current system is not responsive enough to the changing needs of families

The Province's framework identifies how these challenges will be addressed and the following details seven key areas of action over the next five years:

1. Increasing access to early years and child care programs and services
2. Ensuring a more affordable early years and child care system
3. Establishing an early years workforce strategy
4. Determining a provincial definition of quality in the early years
5. Developing an approach to promoting inclusion in early years and child care settings
6. Creating outcomes and measurement strategy
7. Increasing public awareness of Ontario's early years and child care system

With this 2017 increase in the funding investment in the early years sector, the Province is moving ahead on its first two areas of action identified. As this child care access expansion plan is over a 5-year period, funding is anticipated to be provided annually to municipalities to support the new and ongoing expansion.

LOCAL IMPLICATIONS

The City of Greater Sudbury currently has approximately 5,700 licensed child care spaces within the community. These spaces can be accessed by subsidized and full fee paying families, and over the course of a year, could potentially serve more than 10,000 children moving through licensed child care. The Ministry of Education has established a target for the local increase to child care access. For the first year of the five-year plan, the City is expected to increase access to licensed child care for approximately 300 children in 2017-18.

The Children Services Section has developed some potential strategies to achieve the goal of increasing access to licensed child care in the community, including:

- Increase child care spaces in existing programs located in schools
- Create new child care spaces within community buildings (ie government, not-for profit, community hubs, etc)
- Revise current policies to increase eligibility for fee subsidies for parents
- Revise child care operator policies/practices to increase access through extended hours

The Children Services Section is committed to engaging its partners throughout this process, to ensure transparency, and to meet the needs of families requiring licensed child care to support employment, education or social/medical needs.

NEXT STEPS

The Children Services Section will research, develop and implement its identified strategies, as appropriate, in consultation with, and supported by the Community Early Learning Leadership (CELL) group representing all licensed child care providers who have an Early Years funding agreement with the City, school boards, Ministry of Education staff, and other children services providers who support the broader early years system in the community.

Within provincial funding guidelines, the City will provide financial support for eligible programs that expand their services and programs in helping achieve the goal of increasing access to licensed child care spaces. An initial meeting with a representative group of the CELL took place in August, and regular meetings and updates with the larger CELL group will occur beginning October 2017. As this is a multi-year provincial initiative, the consultative process will be ongoing, until the province achieves its goal of 100,000 new children accessing licensed child care.

The Children Services Section will provide updates to Community Services Committee on the local progress and expansion achieved.

Ontario's **Renewed** **Early Years** and **Child Care** **Policy Framework**

2017



The Ontario Public Service endeavours to demonstrate leadership with respect to accessibility in Ontario. Our goal is to ensure that Ontario government services, products, and facilities are accessible to all our employees and to all members of the public we serve. This document, or the information that it contains, is available, on request, in alternative formats. Please forward all requests for alternative formats to ServiceOntario at 1-800-668-9938 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095).



Message from the Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care

As Ontario's first Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care, I have been inspired by the hard work, dedication and commitment of people to make our province a wonderful place for children and families. Every day I meet people who are passionate, informed and eager to move our early years system forward. They share a common goal: to ensure that children thrive in programs that engage their curiosity and nurture their sense of self. They want to see children flourish.

I'm glad to see that so many understand that the early years of a child's life are vital to their development and future success. When children succeed, we all succeed. This is why our government recently announced a historic commitment to help 100,000 more children, from birth to age 4, access licensed child care over the next five years. This major transformation will double capacity for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and will help more families find high-quality licensed child care spaces to give their children the best possible start in life.

To ensure that this unprecedented investment is responsibly implemented, we wanted to hear from as many families as possible to learn what they want and need from Ontario's early years and child care system. Last fall I began a tour that took me to cities, towns, rural areas and Indigenous communities across Ontario to hear about how we can work together to achieve our vision for our early years system. Using our [discussion paper](#) as a starting point, we held engagement sessions in 20 locations across the province, and held 15 stakeholder meetings. In all, we met with about 2,100 people, and we received over 6,000 responses to our online survey.

Our consultations provided us with a wealth of advice and information. This renewed framework is a collaborative effort authored by the many voices who took the time to share their vision for the early years, including the many children I was lucky enough to meet on my travels.

I am committed to bringing real, positive change to the early years sector, and to make it easier for Ontario families across the province to raise their children in high-quality and responsive environments that are affordable and accessible. We all want more children and families to experience the benefits of our early years system, and this framework is the foundation for a responsible and measured plan for getting us there.

We've made a lot of progress in modernizing Ontario's early years and child care system, but we know there is more work to do. Our government has listened to your thoughts and opinions and we're moving forward to transform the system. As we do this, I am pleased to know that so many of you are willing to help us achieve our vision of a more affordable, accessible and integrated system. Through our partnerships, we are better supporting Ontario families and giving kids a stronger start in life. Together we will succeed.

Our government is working hard to improve and enrich the lives of children and their families. The following framework is built on thousands of conversations, and I hope you will see your passion and wisdom reflected in these pages. It is dedicated to the children and families in Ontario, and reflects the compassion, commitment and vision for the early years that continue to grow throughout our province.

We appreciate your generous input and guidance, and we promise to take your advice to heart as we build a system that works better for Ontario families.

When children succeed, we all succeed.

Chi miigwetch; nia:wen; marsi; merci; thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Indira" being the most prominent.

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister

Contents

Introduction	5
Why Are the Early Years Important?	8
Building on Momentum	12
What We Heard: Ontario's Vision for the Early Years and Child Care	16
Seven Key Areas of Action	20
1. Increasing access to early years and child care programs and services	20
2. Ensuring a more affordable early years and child care system	23
3. Establishing an early years workforce strategy	25
4. Determining a provincial definition of quality in the early years	29
5. Developing an approach to promoting inclusion in early years and child care settings	31
6. Creating an outcomes and measurement strategy	34
7. Increasing public awareness of Ontario's early years and child care system	36
Building for the Future: Next Steps	38
Notes	40

Une publication équivalente est disponible en français sous le titre suivant : *Cadre stratégique renouvelé pour la petite enfance et les services de garde d'enfants de l'Ontario, 2017.*

This publication is available on the Ministry of Education's website, at www.ontario.ca/edu.

Our Vision for the Early Years and Child Care

All children and families have access to a range of high-quality, inclusive and affordable early years and child care programs and services that are child- and family-centred and contribute to children's learning, development and well-being.





Introduction

"History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children."

– Nelson Mandela

Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework is our province's plan to transform Ontario's early years and child care system. This set of initiatives will provide enhancements to create an integrated continuum of learning for children while supporting Ontario's world-class early years professionals as it gives more children access to early years and child care programs across the system. This includes increasing access to child and family programs as well as our commitment to help 100,000 more children – from birth to age 4 – access licensed care. Our plan sets the foundation for a more responsive and affordable system, and reflects the change that Ontarians told us they need.

In the fall and winter of 2016–17, we held public consultations across the province to learn how to enhance Ontario's early years¹ and child care system. Our objective was to hear from parents, caregivers, early years and child care professionals, municipalities,² school boards, employers, Indigenous partners, communities and other key stakeholders about the strengths of the system, as well as the challenges they face and how government might address them.

We heard that recent provincial initiatives are having a positive impact on the lives of Ontarians. For example, experts and families told us that [How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years](#) has enhanced the quality of early years programs. Ontarians also said that full-day kindergarten (FDK)

is providing children with a stronger start in life while giving parents and caregivers the benefits of a more seamless day. We heard that the Child Care and Early Years Act has strengthened health and safety standards and brought legislation up to date. And we heard that historic provincial investments have helped more children play and learn in affordable, high-quality settings.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“The government of Ontario has taken extraordinary, historic steps over the past decade to modernize the Ontario child care system, and improve access to licensed child care and early years programs, through significant new investments in these programs.”

– Recreation partner

Many Ontarians will also benefit from the changes that will be rolled out over the next year. These immediate plans include:

- expanding before- and after-school programming for children aged 6 to 12, where there is sufficient demand;
- integrating Ontario's child and family programs into a more streamlined and accessible service; and
- committing continued support for early years and child care professionals through a \$2 per hour plus benefits wage enhancement and a \$20 home child care enhancement grant.



We are proud that this work is making high-quality education and care more accessible for children and families. But we know that there's more work to do. During our public engagement, participants identified a number of challenges within Ontario's early years and child care system. These issues fall into four broad areas:

- Child care has become *unaffordable* for many of Ontario's lower and middle class families.
- Too many parents and caregivers struggle to *access* quality child care options.
- It is often hard to recruit and retain qualified early childhood educators, and additional support is needed to improve the *quality* of care.
- The current system is not *responsive* enough to the changing needs of families.

This framework identifies how we will address these challenges. We will provide support to Ontario families immediately, while working with our partners on more transformative changes over the longer term. The work we do over the next five years will focus on seven areas:

1. Increasing access to early years and child care programs and services
2. Ensuring a more affordable early years and child care system
3. Establishing an early years workforce strategy
4. Determining a provincial definition of quality in the early years
5. Developing an approach to promoting inclusion in early years and child care settings
6. Creating an outcomes and measurement strategy
7. Increasing public awareness of Ontario's early years and child care system

Ontarians told us that they want this province to be one of the best places for their children to live, learn and grow. We share their goal, and believe this framework will help us achieve our vision. Our plan provides a clear path to a stronger early years and child care system, and builds on the progress we've made together already. It incorporates the vital feedback we received from the thousands of people across Ontario who told us that they need high-quality, accessible and affordable early years and child care options. Together, we are ready to build on our progress and foster growth in Ontario's early years and child care system. Our goal is to help families access the valuable opportunities necessary to give children enriching and rewarding lives.



Why Are the Early Years Important?

"The positive relation between child care quality and virtually every facet of children's development that has been studied is one of the most consistent findings in developmental science."

– The National Academy of Sciences

We all want the very best for children. The early years are formative, and parents understand that the time and care they spend on their children nurtures their health and well-being, both today and throughout their lives. Research shows that positive early years experiences can have a strong impact on a child's life,³ and how important it is for government to recognize this connection and invest in this critical period.



Health, Learning, and Economic Outcomes of Positive Early Years Experiences



Healthy Child Development

- A high-quality early childhood education positively contributes to a child's overall health and well-being
- The positive effects of high-quality early childhood experiences last a lifetime



Learning

- Early learning experiences have a long-lasting impact on a child's language, literacy and mathematics skills
- A high-quality early childhood education has a positive effect on school success



Economic

- For every dollar spent on a child's early years, there is an immediate \$2 return on investment
- Over the life of the child, this dollar investment can grow to return up to \$7

Children are highly attuned to the world around them, and their earliest experiences have lifelong effects:

- Positive experiences create strength, confidence and resiliency in children for life.⁴
- Ongoing negative experiences in their early years can lead to longer-term difficulties, and the need for costly interventions later on in life.⁵

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"Increasingly the literature and experiences of educators and families demonstrate the importance of affordable, accessible, high-quality services for families across the economic spectrum, for children's well-being and for the economy."

– A parent

The Ontario government supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). The Convention holds that children are human beings with distinct rights, including:

- Protection (e.g., from abuse, exploitation and harmful substances)
- Provision (e.g., for education, health care and an adequate standard of living)
- Participation (e.g., listening to children's views and respecting their evolving capacities)
- Play (e.g., in recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child)
- Specific protections and provisions for vulnerable populations

High-quality early years programs not only play a part in preparing children for the future, they also recognize children as born learners and as citizens with rights who deserve to have beneficial experiences every day in enriching environments. All children are complex thinkers, and as they grow they thrive in responsive and caring relationships that support how learning happens. All children are curious and learn through play, making connections and testing theories as they interact with their world. Nurturing this innate curiosity through high-quality relationships and experiences is key to their health and well-being. A young child's brain is enormously complex. A baby's brain builds up to 1 million neural connections *a second*.⁶ Child development experts recommend that we support children in this critical period by providing them with inclusive, caring environments and meaningful interactions. We must encourage these fast-growing and imaginative minds by fostering exploration, play and inquiry, so that all children have the opportunity to learn, create and engage in critical thinking with others.

Children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential. They grow up in families with diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. Every child should feel that he or she belongs, is a valuable contributor to his or her surroundings, and deserves the opportunity to succeed. When we recognize children as capable and curious, we are more likely to deliver programs and services that value and build on their strengths and abilities.

– How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years

A robust early years system benefits not only children and their immediate families but the community as a whole. Having affordable, high-quality early years options gives parents more employment opportunities, while giving employers access to a more diverse workforce. In addition, accessible and affordable child care options support the economic empowerment of women, who currently drop out of the workforce in disproportionate numbers to care for children. Child care also allows more parents to pursue a diverse range of postsecondary education and training opportunities to support their economic and social goals. This also helps close the wage gap between male and female earners and reduces poverty. These are some of the many reasons why it is so important to provide young children with the best possible start in life. Money spent on early childhood education is not just money well spent – it is an investment for a better future for everyone.

“Many nations and regions now view child care as necessary to strengthen economic prosperity. It encourages high levels of employment by helping families combine work and family responsibilities. Research indicates that where affordable, quality child care is available, women are more likely to work, stay employed and hold better jobs, all of which contribute to narrowing the gender wage gap.”

– Final Report and Recommendations of the Gender Wage Gap Strategy Steering Committee (June 2016)





Building on Momentum

“Scientists and philosophers tend to treat knowledge, imagination and love as if they were all very separate parts of human nature. But when it comes to children, all three are deeply entwined. Children learn the truth by imagining all the ways the world could be, and testing those possibilities.”

– Alison Gopnik⁷

Research has guided Ontario's plan to modernize and transform its early years and child care system. Today's early years and child care system provides a range of programs and services to meet the diverse needs of families, including: child and family programs, all forms of high-quality child care, full-day kindergarten, before- and after-school care, recreation programs and other care arrangements. Together these support a continuum of learning for children up to age 12, while giving families the convenience and benefits of a well-integrated system. Recognizing the crucial role relationships play in raising a child, the ministry has developed strong partnerships – between school boards, municipalities, Indigenous communities, Francophone partners, child care and early years providers and community members – to better coordinate collective efforts across the province. This collaboration has helped Ontario double the number of licensed child care spaces in schools since 2010, giving more families access to a high-quality, seamless day.

The government has made significant investments in licensed child care in schools and communities across the province. By doubling investments, we have enabled twice as many children to access high-quality care today. With our expansion plan we will help twice as many infants, toddlers and preschoolers access licensed care by 2021. This funding is in addition to the investments the ministry is making for its [Journey Together](#) commitments to expand access to child and family programs on-reserve, and child care and child and family programs off-reserve.

To support a continuum of learning across child care and early years settings, the government released *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*. This pedagogy focuses on the importance of learning through relationships in our work with young children and families. To support those who help children learn and grow, the government provided early years and child care professionals working in licensed child care settings with wage enhancements to reflect the value they bring to Ontario each day by teaching and caring for its youngest citizens.

With this renewed framework we are investing in the future of Ontario's children. We know how important the early years are in forming a solid foundation for a child's entire life, and their long-term success as they progress through school. Through this early years and child care transformation, we are reinforcing a full continuum of learning where children are engaged in high-quality programs today so that they can become productive citizens tomorrow. Ontario already has strong early years, child care and education systems, and we are committed to making them even better. We are coordinating our collective efforts to address issues related to affordability, access and training to be more responsive to the needs of families. This is why we are dedicated to the success and well-being of each and every child and student, so that they can reach their full potential.



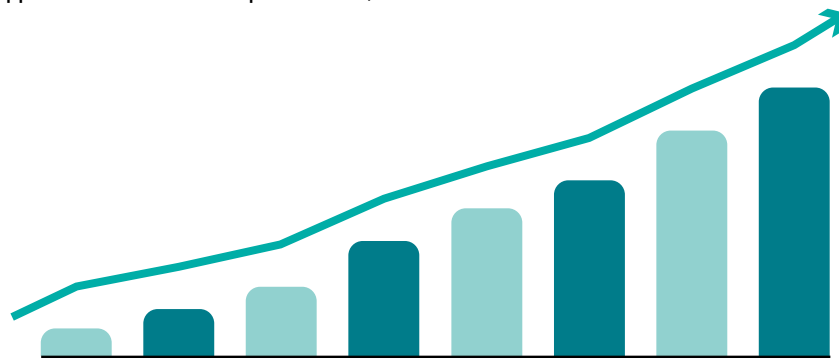
Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education

Ontario's Increased Investments in Licensed Child Care

In 2017, the ministry is providing **\$1.37 billion** to 47 municipalities, including wage enhancement and child care expansion plan funding.

This investment will increase the number of child care spaces in Ontario. As of 2015–16, the number of licensed child care spaces in Ontario has grown to nearly 390,000 – an increase of more than **108 per cent** since 2003–04.

This investment supports child care operating costs, including: operating funding, fee subsidies, supports for children with special needs, and administration.



We know that families and children benefit from programs that help them to strengthen adult-child relationships, support parents/caregivers in their roles, offer play- and inquiry-based learning and connect families with specialized community supports. This is why Ontario currently invests in child and family programs in communities across the province. To provide more consistent and responsive programs and services to families, Ontario is currently transforming all existing child and family programs into one program model.⁸ High-quality services will now be provided through local Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres. These centres will be managed by local municipalities, who are knowledgeable about the needs of their communities, so that families can have access to programs better suited to their needs. Through our close partnerships with municipalities, school boards and early years partners, we expect these new centres will be transformed beginning in 2018.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“In the past few years, Ontario has gained a high level of respect for its visionary work in early education. The changes have been profound, and thoughtfully introduced. The views that guide the work are articulated clearly, and express great respect for children, families, and educators. We now have a solid foundation upon which to build a more coherent system.”

– Academic partners

Ontario now has a stronger early years system thanks to provincial investments and the coordinated efforts of our partners across this province. At the same time, we know it’s not easy for all families to find the early years and child care option that meets their needs. This is why we reached out across the province to hear from Ontario families about what they think and feel about our current early years system.





What We Heard: Ontario's Vision for the Early Years and Child Care

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"If the first six years of life are so critical to human development and success, as the research so clearly tells us, then we need to make the transformation of early education and care a priority."

– Survey respondent

We have been energized and inspired by the passion and dedication that people across the province have for making Ontario a wonderful place for children to grow. Everywhere we visited people came out to say they wanted more: more opportunities to access high-quality early years programs in their communities, more responsive hours of care that meet the demands of modern life, more child and family programs to help families learn, grow and connect together. This local engagement gave us tremendous insight into how the current system is meeting the needs of Ontario families and the areas where there is need for improvement.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"The framework pillars of access, responsiveness, affordability and quality provide an excellent foundation on which to build a child care system."

– Early years partner

We engaged with families around four important themes: affordability, access, quality and responsiveness. These pillars were chosen based on extensive feedback from our partners, and were further reinforced through our engagement:

Affordability	Access	Quality	Responsiveness
Ensuring that early years programs and services, including licensed child care, are within affordable reach for families	Increasing access to early years programs to give families more opportunity to benefit from high-quality early childhood programs and services	Enabling safe and reliable programs built on positive, responsive relationships, engaging environments, and meaningful experiences for children and families, delivered by educated and well-supported staff	Providing a range of early years and child care programs that are inclusive and culturally appropriate, located in schools, communities, workplaces and home settings so that parents – including parents who work irregular hours – can choose the options that work best for their family
<p><i>“An affordable early years system would ensure that every parent has access without having to sacrifice their other basic needs and where every caregiver is empowered to enter the workforce if they choose.”</i></p> <p>– Early years partner</p>	<p><i>“An accessible system is one that can accommodate all children for whom there is a desire for them to participate.”</i></p> <p>– Municipal partner</p>	<p><i>“High-quality early years and child care programs involve the establishment of positive and responsive relationships between children, families and educators and are environments where children are valued as individuals and as active and competent contributors with their own unique interests and points of view.”</i></p> <p>– Early childhood educator candidates</p>	<p><i>“We understand responsiveness in Ontario’s early years and child care system to mean that there is a natural flexibility in the system so that it can easily change to meet families’ ever-changing needs.”</i></p> <p>– Child care partner</p>

Our engagement and continuing partnerships have strengthened Ontario’s early years and child care system. To help us reach even higher, the ministry is introducing a seven-point strategy designed to give families both immediate relief and greater support in the long run, while making it easier for more children to access high-quality early years and child care experiences.

SUMMARY OF SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Numbers at a glance

We received feedback through an online survey, meetings and town hall sessions.

6,044	1,190	895	45
Number of people who submitted feedback through our online survey	Number of people who attended targeted sessions, employer roundtables and interviews	Number of people who participated in public town hall sessions	Number of stakeholder organizations who submitted written feedback

In-person sessions

We hosted conversations with a variety of people across Ontario, including:

- ✓ 15 engagement sessions with people in the sector, including child care providers and educators, Francophone and Indigenous partners
- ✓ 25 one-on-one interviews with employers, followed by a roundtable discussion
- ✓ 20 engagement sessions with parents, caregivers, early years and child care providers, employers, municipalities, school boards, experts and members of the public

Engagement locations

We visited the following locations across the province:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Thunder Bay | ✓ Kingston |
| ✓ Moosonee | ✓ London |
| ✓ Moose Factory | ✓ Windsor |
| ✓ Toronto | ✓ Wellington |
| ✓ Brampton | ✓ York South-Weston |
| ✓ Milton | ✓ Niagara |
| ✓ Peterborough | ✓ Grey-Bruce |
| ✓ Scarborough | ✓ Durham |
| ✓ Kitchener/Waterloo | ✓ Sudbury |
| ✓ Ottawa | ✓ York |

SUMMARY OF SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

What we heard

Some common themes emerged through our engagement:

On affordability

- The high cost of child care and a need for fee subsidies can be barriers to accessing licensed child care.
- While needs vary across regions, issues related to the affordability of licensed child care are consistent, with urban centres experiencing the highest child care costs in Canada.
- There is a desire for the province to examine how child care is delivered in other jurisdictions and, where possible, to find ways to adapt best practices.

On access

- Families face challenges accessing licensed child care due to high cost and lack of space, and these challenges are more pronounced when looking for infant and toddler spaces.
- Parents are not always aware of all early years and child care programs available in their community (e.g., licensed home-based or centre-based child care, child and family programs).
- Parents need easier access to early years and child care information, such as where spaces are available.
- In Indigenous communities, child care should be part of a holistic approach to supporting children and families.

On quality

- Participants identified the need for consistency in how quality is defined, as well as for provincial measures for assessing quality.
- There is a need to better support Ontario's valued early childhood educators through professional development, wage enhancements and other workplace opportunities.
- Participants agreed that high-quality early years and child care programs support children's learning, development and well-being, and improve chances for success in school and in life.

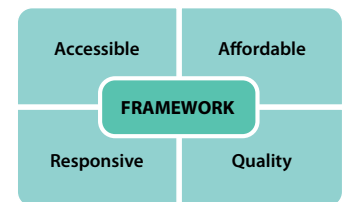
On responsiveness

- Participants suggested that programs need to have more flexible hours (including weekend and evening care) to better support parents who work non-traditional hours.
- Locations of child care and early years programs were identified as barriers, along with a lack of transportation options for families in rural communities.
- The need to increase supports for children with special needs was identified.
- There is a desire for more culturally responsive early years options, especially for Francophone, Indigenous and multi-ethnic programming.



Seven Key Areas of Action

1. Increasing access to early years and child care programs and services



Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"Access to high-quality child care is an issue that impacts our entire society."

– Survey respondent

Early years and child care programs and services are beneficial for children and families, however not everyone can easily access them. Currently, only approximately 20 per cent of children in Ontario are in licensed child care, but we know that demand for high-quality child care is higher.

What We Heard

Through our engagement we heard that Ontarians want government to increase access to licensed child care and early years programs. In cities, child care costs are too high for many families to access. In northern and rural communities, child care centres are often too far away. In First Nations communities there are too few licensed child care spaces, which would support parents in accessing education and employment. And too many families everywhere face difficulties finding high-quality infant care. We heard that government should work harder to ensure that child care is available for the varied needs of families, particularly those with children under the

age of 4, and in a variety of settings: school-based, community-based and home-based. We also heard how important it is for older children to have better access to before- and after-school programming and for families to have better access to child and family programs.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“Access means from the time a child is born until they are 12, families have neighbourhood access to child and family programs, infant and toddler child care and before- and after-school child care in their neighbourhoods, and children attending schools should have a seamless day.”

– School board partner

What We're Doing

Expansion Plan

To provide support, the government is making it easier for more families to access licensed child care in both centres and homes through our expansion plan. This investment will double capacity for children aged 4 and under. We will introduce a three-pronged strategy to help achieve our goals, using (1) school-based, (2) community-based, and (3) licensed home-based child care expansion to help enhance access, as families need more licensed child care spaces in cities, in rural communities and throughout Northern Ontario.

We will also work with our First Nation and federal partners to ensure that more children and families can benefit from our expansion plan by enhancing access to licensed child care in First Nation communities on reserve. And as part of the [Journey Together](#) initiative, we will help expand access to child and family programs on reserve, and increase the number of licensed child care spaces and culturally relevant programs for First Nation, Métis and Inuit families off reserve.

To make child care even more accessible, the government will strengthen the licensed home child care sector by providing targeted base funding through municipalities and First Nations.

Innovation Fund

Throughout our engagement we heard many innovative ideas on how to increase access. We are committed to making these ideas work. That's why Ontario is launching a fund to support innovative solutions to increase access and encourage licensed child care growth in unique and inventive ways.

This will include facilitating non-traditional and seasonal hours for families who need more care options around the clock, as well as further encouraging growth in the non-profit sector.

Expanding Before- and After-School Programs

Following the success of full-day kindergarten in better integrating learning and care under one roof, the government is expanding before- and after-school care for students from Kindergarten through to Grade 6 in all publicly funded schools where there is sufficient demand. This will give families additional options at local schools while providing more children greater access to a seamless, high-quality day.

For 2018 and Beyond

Over the longer term, Ontario will continue to evaluate the implementation of its expansion plan to ensure that its new licensed child care spaces are accessible to children and families. We will also increase access to child and family programs as we integrate our four existing programs into one consistent, enhanced provincial model to best meet local family and community need.

ACTION ITEMS

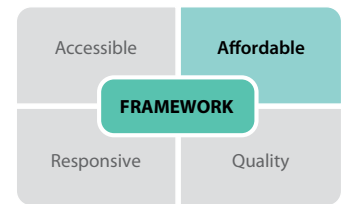
- ✓ Help 100,000 more children aged 4 and under access licensed child care over the next five years
- ✓ Strengthen the licensed home child care sector by providing base funding to give families more options for high-quality care
- ✓ Work to increase licensed child care spaces in Indigenous communities
- ✓ Launch an innovation fund to provide unique and inventive solutions to increasing access to licensed child care
- ✓ Expand before- and after-school care for Kindergarten to Grade 6 to improve access to seamless programming
- ✓ Integrate Ontario's existing child and family programs into a single suite of services to better serve children and families



What this means for children and families

Families will find it easier to access high-quality early years programs and licensed child care spaces in homes, schools and communities.

2. Ensuring a more affordable early years and child care system



Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"If we know that early investment in child development and learning yields positive long-term outcomes, then the government of Ontario should take the lead in supporting families in creating more quality, accessible and affordable spaces."

– Survey respondent

Access and affordability are linked. Across the province the cost of licensed child care has become a barrier to access. Infant care is particularly expensive, preventing many families from even trying to find licensed care, which we know can impact access to workforce and education opportunities.

What We Heard

We know that licensed child care costs are simply too high for many Ontario families. For women and single parents in particular, the lack of affordable child care often prevents them from finding meaningful employment or education opportunities.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"Attention to child care and early learning makes good economic sense for Ontario. These systems support local economies and help families and communities thrive by making full-time work possible for families. Especially in northern and rural communities, child care systems and early years programming help attract and retain the skilled workforce needed to grow local economies."

– Municipal partner

What We're Doing

Immediate Action

In order to help 100,000 more children access licensed child care spaces, we must ensure that these spaces are affordable. To move forward, in 2017–18, the \$200 million investment announced in the 2017 Budget will support access to licensed child care for 24,000 more children aged 4 and under.

For 2018 and Beyond

The government will look to improve our current funding approach, with a special focus on ensuring that more families can afford quality, licensed child care across the province. We will also work with families and experts in the coming months to deliver a child care affordability strategy that will identify further measures that could lower costs and support parents.

ACTION ITEMS

- ✓ Invest immediately so that more infants, toddlers and preschoolers can have affordable access to high-quality licensed child care throughout the province
- ✓ Increase funding for fee subsidies to help families who need them
- ✓ Improve the current funding approach with a focus on improving affordability and access to fee subsidies

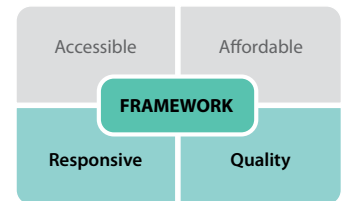


What this means for children and families

Child care will be more affordable for families.



3. Establishing an early years workforce strategy



Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“For quality practice to be sustained and positive outcomes for child development realized, those who care for and educate the youngest across our province must keep abreast of changes and have the structures and supports in place so they can meaningfully engage in professional development that will support them to effectively manage the increasingly complex demands of their practice.”

– Educator partners

Children deserve the highest-quality educators. Educators are competent and capable, curious and rich in experience. They are knowledgeable, caring, reflective and resourceful professionals. We know that it takes special talent to listen, respond, nurture and learn with children, so that’s why we support the professionalization of early childhood educators. We introduced the Early Childhood Educators Act in 2007, helping to establish Canada’s first regulatory college for early childhood educators. Since then we’ve also introduced wage enhancement to better compensate early childhood educators and early years professionals for their work, and increased funding to our Early Childhood Educator Qualifications Upgrade Program.

Educators in Ontario’s early years settings:

- cultivate authentic, caring relationships and connections to create a sense of belonging among and between children, adults, and the world around them;
- nurture children’s healthy development and support their growing sense of self;
- provide environments and experiences to engage children in active, creative, and meaningful exploration, play, and inquiry;
- foster communication and expression in all forms.

– How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years

What We Heard

Although early years and child care professionals appreciate the progress the government has made, there is more to do. The government's wage enhancement for staff has helped, but many in the sector are worried that this funding is only temporary. Many centres experience difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified early years and child care professionals to provide programming that is culturally responsive and meets the needs of all children. There is also a great need for ongoing professional learning opportunities. Helping 100,000 more children access licensed child care and transforming Ontario's child and family programs is only possible with a robust and world-class workforce.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"We believe the Government of Ontario must address the pressing workforce issues in any strategic framework going forward. Although early childhood educators shape the future of children, they still lack sufficient recognition for their invaluable contribution."

– Recreation partner

What We're Doing

Immediate Action

A workforce strategy will be launched using expert advice to develop recommendations to support a longer-term plan for growing the profession of early childhood educators and addressing the multiple complex issues facing the sector.

Early childhood educators and other early years professionals are integral to our vision of a high-quality early years and child care system. This is why we're committed to supporting ongoing compensation through wage enhancement and the home child care enhancement grant.

Professional Development

We will support ongoing professional learning opportunities for educators to maintain and further develop their knowledge and skills, including two provincially funded professional learning and leadership events a year for child care and early years staff. We will also work to find ways to allow early childhood educators to have release time so that they can further develop their expertise.

The ministry will work to strengthen high-quality and culturally relevant programming in early years settings. This will include a resource document on *aménagement linguistique* for the early years, which will help to promote French language and Francophone culture in Ontario.

"In minority communities, early childhood is particularly important, on both an individual and a community level. For young children, this is a key time in terms of learning the French language, building identity and developing a sense of belonging to the community."

– Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages

Helping Early Years Professionals Upgrade Their Qualifications

To help attract and retain more early childhood educators, Ontario will continue to help people upgrade qualifications through the Early Childhood Educator Qualifications Upgrade Program. This program helps support individuals working in the early years sector to obtain an early childhood educator diploma and become eligible to apply for membership with the College of Early Childhood Educators.

For 2018 and Beyond

The government will move forward with a workforce strategy to develop ways to further support early years professionals in areas such as compensation, hiring, retention and professional development so that more Ontario families can have access to high-quality educators to meet their diverse needs.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"We can't build a high-quality early years and child care system without a high-quality early childhood workforce. Affordable spaces without quality care and education experiences for children are not what parents, children, staff or the government ultimately want."

– Educator partners

ACTION ITEMS

- ✓ Develop a workforce strategy to support recruitment and retention of early years and child care professionals
- ✓ Confirm ongoing support for wage enhancement while exploring methods for improving the program
- ✓ Provide ongoing support for professional development including two provincially funded events per year

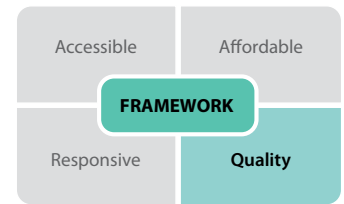


What this means for children and families

Families will continue to benefit from high-quality child care and early years programming delivered by engaged and knowledgeable educators.



4. Determining a provincial definition of quality in the early years



Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“High-quality early years and child care programs are reflected through smiling children who are confidently exploring safe, beautiful, well-equipped indoor and outdoor environments and co-learning with positive, responsive and active educators.”

– Municipal partner

High-quality early childhood settings are linked with immediate- and long-term positive outcomes for children. Studies show that children who attend high-quality early childhood programs and experience warm, supportive relationships are happier, less anxious and more motivated to learn than children who do not.⁹ To help strengthen quality and consistency across the early years sector, the government created *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*. This pedagogy has helped guide early years educators in planning and providing environments and experiences that support children's learning, development, health and well-being.

What We Heard

Families know that children benefit from high-quality settings. Although there is more awareness of the importance of quality in early years and child care settings, stakeholders and families are calling on government to advance further on improving quality. A shared understanding of how high-quality experiences are necessary for children's health and happiness would strengthen all early years programs. It would ensure consistency in diverse settings while still allowing for flexible approaches to creating the kinds of environments and experiences that are meaningful for children.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“Quality needs to be synonymous with inclusive practice. Ample research demonstrates that meaningful inclusive services have the characteristics that make services high-quality for all children.”

– Academic partners

What We're Doing

Immediate Action

The government will engage with early years partners to develop a provincial definition of quality that builds on our shared views of the child, the family and the educator. We will have focused discussions about quality with early years program leaders, Indigenous and Francophone partners, service system managers, experts and members of the academic community, and we will learn from educators, parents and children about what matters most about quality.

For 2018 and Beyond

We know that the quality of care is important to families. This is why we will work collaboratively to provide a definition of quality in early years and child care. We will ensure that our approach to quality is connected and aligned with our other strategies, and that it includes a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion. We will also ensure that our mechanisms for supporting and assessing quality include nurturing positive relationships, creating engaging and culturally appropriate environments and experiences, and documenting children's exploration and learning. To better support a continuum of learning, the Ministry of Education intends to create strong linkages between quality in early childhood settings and approaches to quality used in school settings for children aged 6 to 12.

ACTION ITEMS

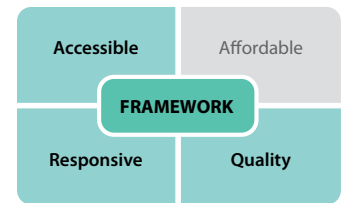
- ✓ Engage with early years partners to co-develop a definition of program quality by 2019
- ✓ Research and develop a mechanism for measuring program quality as part of our outcomes and measurement strategy



What this means for children and families

Children and families will continue to benefit from a consistent approach to quality across early years settings that supports a continuum of learning.

5. Developing an approach to promoting inclusion in early years and child care settings



Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“Across the province the need for increased funding for special needs resourcing is essential. In order for all children to access affordable, high-quality licensed child care programs it is essential that the need for more funding be recognized for those programs which provide supports to children with exceptionalities.”

– Survey respondent

All children are unique and grow and learn in different ways. Early years programs develop policies, practices and environments that respect and support inclusion, meaningful participation in everyday activities and a sense of belonging for all children. When children with special needs have access to early years programs that offer appropriate support, it can lead to rich and fulfilling childhoods while also preparing them for meaningful participation in society. The ministry currently provides funding for special needs resourcing to municipalities and First Nations to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care programs.

Every child has a sense of *belonging* when he or she is connected to others and contributes to their world.

Every child is developing a sense of self, health, and *well-being*.

Every child is an active and *engaged* learner who explores the world with body, mind, and senses.

Every child is a capable communicator who *expresses* himself or herself in many ways.

– *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*

What We Heard

Parents face challenges finding reliable services for children with special needs. We also heard that children's transitions during the day between school and child care need to be coordinated and consistent. Families and stakeholders agree that increased supports for children with special needs are required across the province.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"True inclusion is not simply having children with special needs in attendance. It is the active involvement of all the children to ensure they have equal opportunities for participation and positive outcomes. And true inclusion is a component of quality in child care for all."

– Recreation partner

What We're Doing

Immediate Action

The Ministry of Education will continue to work with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services on Ontario's Special Needs Strategy and the new Ontario Autism Program to improve access to timely and effective services so that children with special needs are supported in participating fully at home and in the community. We will also engage with delivery partners to maximize the use of current resources that provide services to children and families.

For 2018 and Beyond

The Ontario government will continue to develop an approach to supporting special needs in early years and child care settings that promotes inclusion for all children. We intend to work with a broad set of stakeholders to better serve children with special needs. The government will release a renewed approach to supporting inclusion in early years and child care settings in 2018. This approach will align with other government initiatives supporting healthy child development in the early years, including Ontario's Special Needs Strategy, Moving on Mental Health, the Ontario Indigenous Children Strategy and others.

ACTION ITEMS

- ✓ Undertake a comprehensive review of current approaches to supporting all children in early years settings
- ✓ Engage with stakeholders to develop a renewed approach to supporting children with special needs in the early years

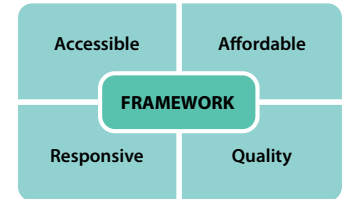


What this means for children and families

Families will find it easier to navigate services and receive support for all children, including those with special needs.



6. Creating an outcomes and measurement strategy



Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"The province should engage with child care experts and researchers to develop a robust data and research agenda to monitor quality as the system develops."

– Early years partner

We want our investments in the early years system to be responsible, informed and effective. Having a strategic approach to outcomes and measurement will allow the government to ensure that the system gives children high-quality early years experiences while remaining affordable and accessible for families.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"In order to measure the quality of early years and child care programs we believe that it is imperative that the suggestions of the children, parents, community and educators be sought when determining the criteria for quality child care programming in Ontario."

– Early childhood educator candidates

What We Heard

In order to monitor the effectiveness of its early years system, Ontario should create an outcomes and measurement strategy to make sure the system is providing high-quality care that is affordable, accessible and responsive. This strategy should take into consideration the quality of relationships with children and families, and other qualitative evidence (such as pedagogical documentation), to align with *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*.

What We're Doing

Immediate Action

In order to increase public awareness, accountability and transparency, the government will develop and release an annual report that provides data on defined measures of progress on the actions identified in this framework. This report will give Ontarians access to key information that will help promote a better understanding of the province's approach to the early years and child care.

For 2018 and beyond

The government will develop a five-year strategic approach to monitor and measure our progress in enhancing Ontario's early years and child care system. This will consist of a three-pronged outcomes and measurement strategy, including (1) an outcomes framework to ensure that the system is accountable to children and families, while providing good value for money; (2) a data management approach to better support evidence-based decision making; and (3) a research plan to help ensure that we're using the latest findings to inform the implementation of our renewed framework. These evidence-based approaches will allow us to accurately monitor and evaluate how the system is responding to the needs of families as we move forward.

ACTION ITEMS

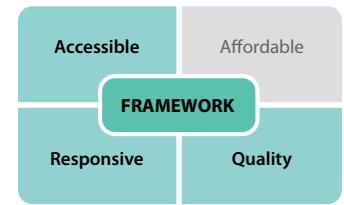
- ✓ Develop and release an annual data report beginning in the fall of 2017
- ✓ Develop a five-year outcomes and measurement strategy to best measure system effectiveness, including:
 - An outcomes framework
 - A data management approach, and
 - A research plan



What this means for children and families

Families will have increased confidence in how Ontario's early years system is working as government decisions become more transparent and evidence-based.

7. Increasing public awareness of Ontario's early years and child care system



Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"The government should undertake an ongoing public awareness campaign on the benefits of quality child care and early years programs, including information about quality indicators for parents searching for care."

– Survey respondent

A big part of access is awareness. We know that providing parents and families with information about Ontario's early years system is an important first step in helping them make well-informed decisions that best meet the needs of their families.

What We Heard

There is currently little awareness of the range of early years programs and services that the government provides, including that Ontario's child and family programs are provided to families with no charge. The government could do more to inform parents, caregivers, communities and partners about the wide range of options that are available to them, and how high-quality early years interactions are important for well-being and healthy child development. The government should also inform parents about the benefits of play-based learning, and consider opportunities to highlight Ontario's early years and child care system through an ad campaign.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

"Work to change the conversation around child care. It is as important a public service as public education, yet it is still talked about in niche terms and as if it's a women's issue. It's a family issue, it's an economic issue."

– Survey respondent

What We're Doing

Immediate Action

We want every family and caregiver to know the full range of options currently available to them in their communities. That's why we're developing a public awareness campaign to help parents understand our recent investments in the early years system, and the many different programs and services available to families. High-quality early years experiences are so important for children's learning, development and well-being. Families are stronger when they have access to services that allow parents and caregivers to work, pursue higher education and training and engage in their communities. As a result of this public awareness campaign, families will have more information about the full suite of early years options available to them and will be better able to engage with providers and early childhood educators to ensure the best experiences for their children and themselves.

For 2018 and Beyond

Starting in 2018, the government will release an updated website, including a one-stop hub for parents to easily access information, resources and tools connecting them to a comprehensive range of government early years programs.

We are also committing to release a new visual identity for Ontario's child and family programs to better promote our consistent approach to these high-quality services that help support families and expecting parents.

ACTION ITEMS

- ✓ Increase public awareness of the range of early years and child care programs and services that are available to families
- ✓ Create a one-stop online hub for Ontario's early years system, giving parents easy access to comprehensive information
- ✓ Provide a new visual identity for Ontario's child and family programs by January 2018, as part of the integration of its existing programs



What this means for children and families

Families will have easily accessible information about the full range of early years and child care programs and services that are available to them.



Building for the Future: Next Steps

"Children are not our possessions; they are gifts to us. This is the belief of our people."

– Joint First Nations/Inuit Federal Child Care Working Group¹⁰

Together we've already made great advances in improving the lives of families across Ontario. The work we've done is having a positive impact every day on the lives of parents, caregivers and children. Our efforts are making a huge difference.

There is a wonderful and passionate energy in this province to keep improving the lives of its young children. We are truly inspired by your dedication. We couldn't have developed this framework without the input of Ontarians all across this province. Our close partnerships have made Ontario a leader in the early years, and we will continue to work closely together to reach our renewed commitments. As we move forward with our immediate- and longer-term strategies, we are committed to working with our partners to leverage the existing research, and using experts to determine a made-in-Ontario approach that will work best for all families in this province.

The government of Ontario is particularly pleased that the 2017 Federal Budget committed to support more early years options across Canada, including a portion for child care programs for Indigenous children living on and off reserve. We are excited to be working with our federal partners to create new opportunities for families. It is our hope that governments, communities, employers and providers – all of us – can continue working closely together for a better today and a brighter tomorrow for all.

We are committed to delivering on each of our goals. To stay engaged with the ministry as we embark on this historic journey together, please visit [Ontario.ca/morechildcare](https://ontario.ca/morechildcare) for further updates. Our agenda is ambitious, but the children and families of Ontario deserve nothing less from us. They are ready for us to take action today.

Feedback to our Discussion Paper

“We don’t see this as the beginning of the conversation; we see the conversation as ongoing.”

– Early childhood educator candidates





Notes

1. "Early years" refers to programs and services for children or parents that are specified or meet the description set out in the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014. Early years programs and services involve or relate to the learning, development, health and well-being of children, are funded wholly or partly by the ministry and are not child care or extended day programs.
2. In this document, the term "municipalities" is intended to include all 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards that are the local service system managers for child care, and are responsible for managing the child care service system.
3. For healthy development outcomes, refer to Arthur J. Reynolds, Judy A. Temple, Suh-Ruu Ou, Irma A. Arteaga, and Barry A. B. White, "School-Based Early Childhood Education and Age-28 Well-Being: Effects by Timing, Dosage, and Subgroups", *Science* 333, no. 6040 (2011): 360–64, retrieved from <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/333/6040/360>; and Craig Alexander and Dina Ignjatovic, "Early Childhood Education Has Widespread and Long Lasting Benefits" (TD Economics Special Report, November 27, 2012), retrieved from http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/di1112_EarlyChildhoodEducation.pdf. For learning outcomes, refer to W. Steven Barnett, "Long-Term Cognitive and Academic Effects of Early Childhood Education of Children in Poverty", *Preventive Medicine* 27 no. 2 (1992): 204–07. For economic outcomes, refer to Centre for Spatial Economics, *Early Learning and Care Impact Analysis* (Milton: Author, 2010); and James J. Heckman, "The Case for Investing in Disadvantaged Young Children", in *Big Ideas for Children: Investing in Our Nation's Future*, ed. First Focus (Washington, DC: First Focus, 2008), 49–58.
4. Harvard Center on the Developing Child, "The Science of Resilience" (InBrief) (2015), accessed May 5, 2017, <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-the-science-of-resilience/>.
5. Harvard Center on the Developing Child, "The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development" (InBrief) (2007), accessed May 5, 2017, <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-the-impact-of-early-adversity-on-childrens-development/>.
6. Harvard Center on the Developing Child, "Five Numbers to Remember about Early Childhood Development" (Brief) (2009), accessed May 5, 2017, <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/five-numbers-to-remember-about-early-childhood-development/>.
7. Alison Gopnik, *The Philosophical Baby* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009).
8. To learn more about this plan, visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/plan.html>.
9. Stuart Shanker, *Calm, Alert and Learning: Classroom Strategies for Self-Regulation* (Toronto: Pearson Education Canada, 2013).
10. Joint First Nations/Inuit Federal Child Care Working Group, *Considerations and Recommendations for the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Program and Funding Framework: Technical Report* (Ottawa: Human Resources Development Canada, 1995).

Seven Key Areas of Action

1. Increasing access to early years and child care programs and services

What this means for children and families

Families will find it easier to access high-quality early years programs and licensed child care spaces in homes, schools and communities.

2. Ensuring a more affordable early years and child care system

What this means for children and families

Child care will be more affordable for families.

3. Establishing an early years workforce strategy

What this means for children and families

Families will continue to benefit from high-quality child care and early years programming delivered by engaged and knowledgeable educators.

4. Determining a provincial definition of quality in the early years

What this means for children and families

Children and families will continue to benefit from a consistent approach to quality across early years settings that supports a continuum of learning.

5. Developing an approach to promoting inclusion in early years and child care settings

What this means for children and families

Families will find it easier to navigate services and receive support for all children, including those with special needs.

6. Creating an outcomes and measurement strategy

What this means for children and families

Families will have increased confidence in how Ontario's early years system is working as government decisions become more transparent and evidence-based.

7. Increasing public awareness of Ontario's early years and child care system

What this means for children and families

Families will have easily accessible information about the full range of early years and child care programs and services that are available to them.



Printed on recycled paper

17-088

ISBN 978-1-4868-0182-4 (Print)

ISBN 978-1-4868-0184-8 (PDF)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2017

For Information Only

Graphic-Con Event Update

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Sep 18, 2017
Report Date	Thursday, Aug 31, 2017
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only

Resolution

For Information Only

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report supports the Strategic Plan adopted by the City of Greater Sudbury as it aligns with the Quality of Life and Place priority. Graphic-Con's mandate is to support the Greater Sudbury Public Library's literacy initiatives through a fun, engaging, and inclusive experience. The event is also increasingly contributing to the City's tourism and economic development initiatives, attracting visitors, vendors, and artists from across Ontario and beyond.

Report Summary

Graphic-Con is a large, one-day event organized by the Greater Sudbury Public Library. Graphic-Con contributes to the Library's mandate to promote literacy and a love of reading through this celebration of non-traditional media. The event is dedicated to celebrating art forms including comic books, graphic novels, film, and video games. Further, Graphic-Con provides an inclusive and safe environment for participants to explore different aspects of popular culture and to express unique interests.

Now in its 4th year, Graphic-Con continues to grow in size and scope while producing a wide-range of positive social, economic, and organizational benefits. In 2017, the event attracted approximately 5,000 attendees to the Sudbury Community Arena. Graphic-Con operates on a revenue-neutral, cost-recovery basis that has allowed for sustainable growth while ensuring that the event remains affordable and accessible. Planning for Graphic-Con 2018 is now underway with plans to further enhance the role of the event's community advisory group.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Brian Harding
Manager of Library & Heritage Resources
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Health Impact Review

Brian Harding
Manager of Library & Heritage Resources
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Division Review

Luisa Valle
Director of Children and Citizen Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Financial Implications

Liisa Brule
Coordinator of Budgets
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Sep 6, 17

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report as the over expenditure of \$1,112 is to be funded through the Library's 2017 budget allocation for programs.

Background

Graphic-Con began in 2013 as a one-day event designed to promote reading through the celebration of graphic novels, comic books, film, and other media which have long been identified as effective means to promote literacy among “reluctant readers” and other demographics for whom reading represents a challenge. Promoting these forms of literature and film both helps legitimize these often ignored and trivialized media while also making the connection that Greater Sudbury Public Library supports these media through its collections and other services.

Since its inception the event has grown each year, attracting increasingly greater numbers of visitors, vendors, artists, and special guests. In 2016 Graphic-Con moved to the Sudbury Community Arena, a venue that allowed for a significant expansion of the event's programming and a corresponding increase in participation.

The 2016 event also saw the establishment of key partnerships including Launchpad Creative who provided in-kind marketing and promotion support and Downtown Sudbury who provided key financial support. Attendance in 2016 nearly doubled that of the previous year, with artist and vendor participation also undergoing significant expansion.

The success of the 2016 event led to the creation of a community advisory group to assist with planning and delivery for 2017. Community group members representing a diverse range of interests, backgrounds, and skill-sets provided input into the planning process, helping shape the continued evolution of the event. Community group members also provided critical hands-on assistance in the lead-up to the event and played key roles during the event itself. Given Greater Sudbury Public Library's mandate to identify and support the needs of our community, the community advisory group's involvement in the 2017 event has been invaluable.

Event Details

In 2017 ticket sales totaled approximately 3,700 with an estimated additional 1,500 participants taking part in the “Kids Con” event at The Market. This, in addition to staff, vendors, volunteers, and special guests brings the total number of participants for 2017 to an estimated 4,500 to 5,000 unique participants.

Year	Location	Number of Attendees
2013	South End Library	300
2015	Science North	2,000
2016	Sudbury Community Arena	4,000
2017	Sudbury Community Arena	5,000

In keeping with the mandate of public libraries in Ontario, Graphic-Con operates on a cost-recovery basis: nominal fees for entry and for table rental are intended to offset operating costs while ensuring that the event remains as affordable and accessible as possible. In-kind donations from a wide range of sponsors and community partners also help support the event and offset additional costs.

For the 2017 event admission was priced at \$5.00 per person with children 12 and under receiving free admission. Advanced tickets were available for purchase online: approximately 300 tickets were sold prior to the event. Total revenue from ticket sales amounted to \$12,305. Additional revenue from table sales and grants resulted in total revenue of \$20,819. Total expenses related to the event, totaled \$21,931 plus Greater Sudbury Public Library's contribution of \$1,112, achieving a break-even budget for 2017.

A total of 52 exhibitors and vendors participated in the event. An additional 14 "special guests" also participated including professional cosplayers, authors and artists, and celebrities including two members of the original cast of *Degrassi*.

Social Outcomes

Through the event's evolution inclusivity has emerged as a major theme. Graphic-Con provides a safe, inclusive space for individuals to gather, to meet other participants, and, importantly, to share and express their unique interests with others. This inclusivity has produced an environment of respect and belonging for all participants, including those who might otherwise experience social exclusion as a result of their interests, beliefs, or expression. While Graphic-Con is primarily a fun and engaging event we have learned that it also contributes to the general wellbeing of participants. Further, Graphic-Con provides participants with opportunities to connect with authors, artists, and makers. These are important opportunities for aspiring children and teens to meet role-models and explore sources inspiration.

Economic Outcomes

Vendors and exhibitors represent the most significant economic activity associated with Graphic-Con. Many of the 52 vendors and exhibitors use Graphic-Con to sell merchandise or promote commercial services. While vendors are not currently required to report sales figures, but will be a requirement for future events, we estimate total direct sales for the day of the event to be in the range of \$50,000. This does not account for indirect business as a result of the event. Most of the vendors and exhibitors are from Northern Ontario, many of whom are located in the City of Greater Sudbury. Tables for local artists are allocated among those available for exhibitors: artist tables are provided at no cost giving up-and-coming artists an opportunity promote their work and generate revenue with minimal overhead costs.

In 2017 Graphic-Con attracted approximately 5,000 people to Sudbury's downtown core. With limited options for food and refreshments on site a significant number of attendees supported local, downtown businesses. While there is no data on the economic spill-over of the event anecdotal reports from local business owners suggests that Graphic-Con contributes to a significant increase in business. Locating the Kid's Con event at The Market also drew Graphic Con attendees to the farmer's market vendors. Graphic-Con coincided with the annual Downtown Rotary Blues for Food event on Durham Street: the close proximity of these two large events produced a "destination" effect with participants spending an extended period of time in the downtown while taking in both events.

Greater Sudbury Public Library and Science North partnered to deliver the 2015 Graphic-Con event. Though the 2015 event was a success for both organizations the number of participants exceeded the capacity available within the Vale Cavern requiring Greater Sudbury Public Library to seek a larger venue for 2016. Nevertheless, Greater Sudbury Public Library and Science North have continued the partnership with Science North hosting Graphic-Con related film screenings over the Graphic-Con weekend. This partnership has been particularly valuable in encouraging out of town visitors to extend their visit, producing further benefits for local hotels and restaurants. Further, the partnership between Greater Sudbury Public Library and Science North forged through Graphic Con has continued to develop and strengthen, leading to further opportunities for cross-promotion and event production. The co-organized Maker Fest event that took place in May 2017 at Science North is an example of this continued partnership.

As a library-led initiative Graphic-Con has also been significant in raising the profile of the Greater Sudbury Public Library within the library community, both across the Province and nationally. Staff from the Greater Sudbury Public has presented on Graphic-Con at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference, Canada's premier professional conference. This session, instructing librarians from across Canada on the process for organizing an event of the scope and scale of Graphic-Con, has raised the profile of the Greater Sudbury Public Library and influenced other libraries to adopt the model created in Greater Sudbury.

Next Steps

Planning for Graphic-Con 2018 is underway. The event will take place June 9th, 2018 at the Sudbury Community Arena.

For 2018 key areas of development will include:

- To focus on the theme of art and artists, ranging from comic books to film
- To provide greater opportunities for local artists and artists from across Canada to present their work through exhibitions, workshops, and panel discussions
- To leverage Graphic-Con's past success in attracting sponsors, particularly to enhance the event's marketing and promotions and to support the hosting of special guests from outside Greater Sudbury

While Graphic-Con has grown out of the Greater Sudbury Public Library's programming initiatives the increased size and scale of the event presents certain operational challenges. Organizing an event of this size requires a significant number of volunteer support and staff hours.

The next stage in this process is to ensure Graphic-Con's long-term sustainability by further integrating the community whom it is designed to support into the event's planning and operation. A townhall community event is planned for early fall with an open invitation to any potential stakeholders with a continued interest the event. The Greater Sudbury Public Library will continue to guide and support the event for the foreseeable future to ensure its continued success.

Attachments

Appendix A – Graphic Con 2017 Advertisement



GRAPHIC-CON



"GRAPHIC-CON IS A NORTHERN ONTARIO FAN CONVENTION THAT ATTRACTED OVER 5,000 PEOPLE IN 2016 TO CELEBRATE COMICS, CELEBRITIES, ARTISTS, COSPLAY, GAMING AND MUCH MORE. THIS EVENT IS MEANT TO ENCOURAGE FAN CULTURE, LITERACY THROUGH GRAPHIC-NOVELS AND COMIC BOOKS AND OTHER POP-CULTURE MEDIUMS. THE GOAL OF THE EVENT IS TO BRING TOGETHER FANS OF ALL AGES AND TYPES INTO AN AFFORDABLE CON EXPERIENCE."

JUNE 10, 2017

10 PM TO 8 PM

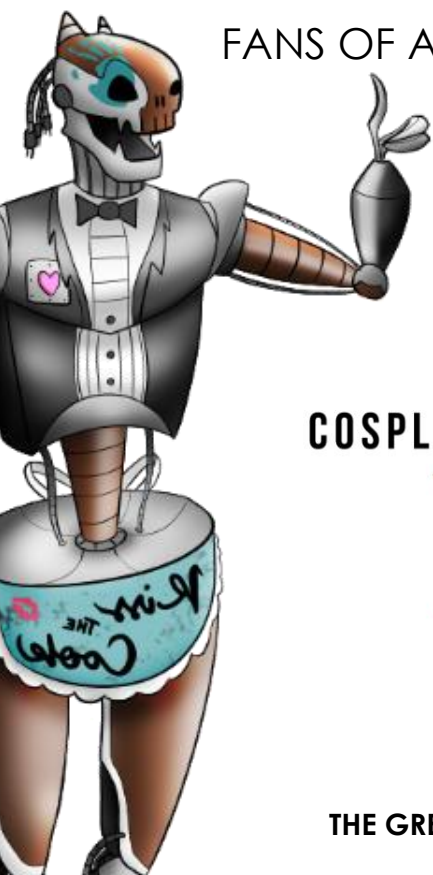
COSPLAY GAMING ARTISTS CELEBRITIES COMICS

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
GRAPHICCON.COM**

**LOCATION:
THE SUDBURY ARENA**

PRESENTED BY:

THE GREATER SUDBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND LAUNCHPAD CREATIVE





GRAPHIC-CON



GRAPHIC-CON EST UN CONGRÈS D'AMATEURS DE BANDES DESSINÉES, DE VEETTES, DE JEUX DE ROLE COSTUMÉS, DE JEUX ÉLECTRONIQUES ET D'AUTRES FORMES DE CULTURE POPULAIRE QUI A ATTIRÉ PLUS DE 5000 PARTICIPANTS EN 2016. CET ÉVÉNEMENT VISE À ENCOURAGER L'EXPRESSION CULTURELLE LIÉE À CES GENRES POPULAIRES ET À PROMOUVOIR LA LITTÉRATIE GRÂCE AUX ROMANS ILLUSTRÉS, AUX BANDES DESSINÉES ET À D'AUTRES MÉDIAS POPULAIRES. IL A POUR BUT DE RASSEMBLER DES FERVENTS DE TOUT ÂGE ET DE TOUT GENRE DANS LE CADRE D'UN CONGRÈS À COÛT MODIQUE.

LE 10 JUIN

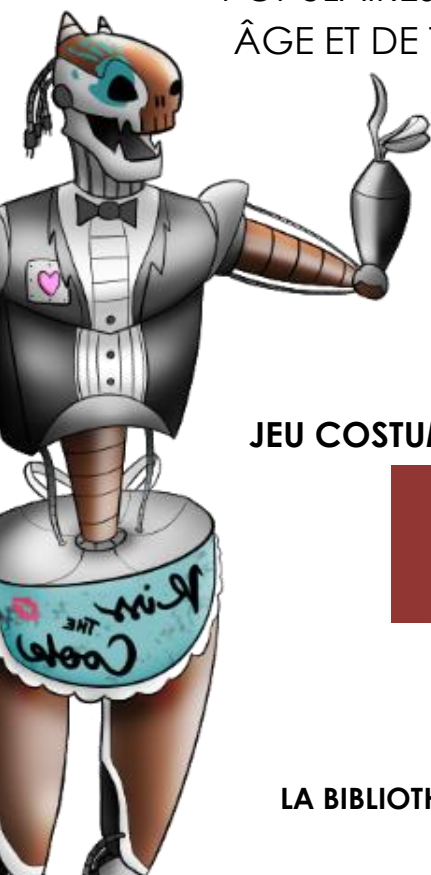
DE 10 H À 20 H

JEU COSTUMÉ JEUX VIDÉOS ARTISTES VEETTES BANDES DESSINÉES

BILLETS EN VENTE À
GRAPHICCON.COM

LIEU : ARÉNA DE SUDBURY
PRÉSENTÉ PAR:

LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE PUBLIQUE DU GRAND SUDBURY ET LAUNCHPAD CREATIVE



For Information Only

Needle Recovery Bins

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Sep 18, 2017

Report Date: Friday, Sep 01, 2017

Type: Correspondence for Information Only

Resolution

For Information Only

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

The syringe recovery and needle bin program addresses the issue of public health and safety by removing discarded drug using equipment from public places and forms part of the harm reduction strategy in the community.

The installations of the bins are in line with the Strategic Plan of Council in order to increase the Quality of Life and Place by reducing public exposure to discarded needles.

Report Summary

This report identifies the locations of 4 scheduled installs for Syringe Recovery and Needle Bins based on recommendations by the Sudbury and District Health Unit, Greater Sudbury Police Services and Outreach Workers that work within the downtown core.

The four locations are as follows:

1) 200 Larch Street 2) Green Stairs by Ste. Anne's Road/Marymount 3) Melvin Street and Mabel Street (near the park) 4) Energy Court (behind 105 Elm Street and the Beer Store)

The report also identifies three further locations for bin placement and indicates that a business case has been submitted for the 2018 Budget to fund the request.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Health Impact Review

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Division Review

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Financial Implications

Apryl Lukezic
Co-ordinator of Budgets
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Sep 6, 17

Financial Implications

The Community Development Department has scheduled the install of four syringe recovery and needle bins in the downtown core at the time of writing, which were purchased by the Sudbury and District Health Unit. The Social Services Division is funding the cost of pick-up and disposal for the last quarter of 2017, with under spent administrative dollars as a result of staffing vacancies.

The cost of scheduled pick-ups is \$607 per site and is expected to be scheduled on a bi-monthly basis. A 2018 Business Case has been developed to fund the pick-up and disposal cost in the operating budget on a permanent basis, as well as the installation of three additional units. The business case is subject to further review and approval by ELT, considering the variety of competing needs that exist for limited financial resources. For all seven units, the total annual operating cost is estimated at \$25,494 and the capital costs for the purchase/installation of three additional units is estimated at \$6,000.

Background

A report was brought to the Community Services Committee in November 2016 outlining the proposed install of 2 syringe recovery bins. One was located in Hnatyshyn Park on a trial basis, which has been successful in reducing the number of discarded needles in the park and associated trail. The bins were purchased by the Sudbury and District Health Unit (SDHU) through a one-time Civil Remedies Act grant. The second bin that was received from the SDHU has been scheduled for install in the downtown core along with three additional bins that were also funded by the SDHU.

A copy of the 2016 report can be found here:

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?searchString=needles&comid=0&search=Search&startDate=08%2F23%2F2016&endDate=08%2F23%2F2017&searchInList=Agendas&lang=en&goSearch=1&pg=search>

Locations and Install

Throughout the summer of 2017, Social Services had received a number of calls from Community partners regarding the high number of discarded needles being found in the downtown core. Social Services worked with community partners including the SDHU, the Greater Sudbury Police Service, and Outreach Workers that work within the downtown core, to determine a prioritized list for the install of syringe recovery bins. The SDHU has purchased three additional bins which means, at the time of writing, that four bins have been scheduled for install at the following locations:

- 1) 200 Larch Street
- 2) Green Stairs by Ste. Anne's Road/Marymount
- 3) Melvin Street and Mabel Street (near the park)
- 4) Energy Court (behind 105 Elm Street and the Beer Store)

An additional site identified by the group is the Leslie Street Bridge (entrance to the Trans Canada trail). Furthermore, an internal staff group is recommending two additional locations for future install including the Main Library branch on Mackenzie Road and a centralized bin located in Memorial Park close to Tom Davies Square.

Next Steps

A business case for the 2018 Budget Process has been submitted for the capital cost to purchase three additional bins for the final three locations, along with the operating costs of pick-up and disposal of all bins on City property. Upon approval through the budget process, the three new bins will be installed in the spring of 2018 once the ground has thawed.

Request for Decision

Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Sep 18, 2017
Report Date	Thursday, Aug 31, 2017
Type:	Managers' Reports

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the use of \$129,303 in additional Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding for homelessness prevention programs and to fund the Homeless Enumeration Point in Time Count for 2018 as outlined in the report entitled "Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative" from the General Manager of Community Development, dated August 31, 2017,

AND THAT staff are directed to bring a report to the Community Services Committee in the first quarter of 2018 with recommendations on the use of future CHPI funding increases from the Province.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This program addresses barriers and is intended to enhance services to persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Service data is collected to monitor the results by program usage.

This report supports the Strategic Plan adopted by the City of Greater Sudbury, as it aligns with the Quality of Life and Place pillar priority by funding services in our community that support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Report Summary

This report outlines the increases in funding through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) which is funded by the Province. The fund supports four broad service categories as follows:

1. Emergency shelter solutions
2. Housing with related supports

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Gail Spencer
Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Health Impact Review

Gail Spencer
Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Division Review

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Aug 31, 17

Financial Implications

Liisa Brule
Coordinator of Budgets
Digitally Signed Sep 1, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Sep 6, 17

3.Other services and supports

4.Homelessness Prevention

The increases in funding will continue to be used to support local priorities that are identified within the CGS Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Financial Implications

If approved, the cost of the Homeless Enumeration Point in Time Count for 2018 will be funded through increased Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHIP) funding.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) receives funding through the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to address local priorities and better meet the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in their local communities.

The Province has recently communicated that CGS will receive an increased allocation of funds for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020.

Funding allocations from April 1st, 2013 to March 31st, 2020 are as follows:

- 2013/2014 allocation- \$2,622,528
- 2014/2015 allocation- \$2,671,375
- 2015/2016 allocation- \$2,671,400
- 2016/2017 allocation- \$2,671,400
- 2017/2018 allocation- \$2,800,703 (\$129,303 increase over 2016/2017 allocation)
- 2018/2019 allocation- \$2,930,117 (\$129,414 increase over 2017/2018 allocation)
- 2019/2020 allocation- \$3,059,602 (\$129,485 increase over 2018/2019 allocation)

History

In 2013, the Province consolidated five separate housing and homelessness funding programs into one program called the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). The consolidation of these programs allowed communities greater flexibility to address local priorities and better meet local needs. At the same time the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) was removed from the social assistance program.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) has four broad service categories

1. Emergency Shelter Solutions
2. Housing with related supports
3. Other services and supports
4. Homelessness Prevention

The vision of CHPI as set out by the Province is a coordinated and integrated service delivery system that is people-centered outcome focused, and reflects a Housing First approach to prevent, reduce and address homelessness in communities across Ontario. This vision reflects the transition to a system that will shift the focus of services over time from reactive responses to homelessness to services that focus on more proactive and permanent solutions.

Communities have the opportunity to create solutions to address homelessness that are locally driven and partnership based.

Local CHPI Program

CGS utilizes this funding in coordination with Federal and Municipal funding to maintain existing service levels and address local priorities for meeting the needs of individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Examples of programs funded within our community include emergency shelter programs, the Extreme Cold Weather Alert Program, and the local CHPI fund which provides low income households with rental and utility arrears, last month rent deposits and utility deposits. Local priorities are identified within the CGS Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=11106.pdf>

Emergency Shelter Solutions

Under the Emergency Shelter Solutions category, the following programs are funded:

- 22 emergency shelter beds for men aged 20 and over through the Salvation Army, located at the New Life Centre, 146 Larch Street Sudbury.
- 26 emergency shelter beds for single women over the age of 19, and families with children through the Salvation Army, located at Cedar Place, 261 Cedar Street Sudbury.
- 16 emergency shelter beds for youth aged 16 to 19 years through L'association des jeunes de la rue, located at Foyer Notre Dame, 307 Cedar Street, Sudbury.
- 30 additional cots through the Off The Street Emergency Shelter Program, operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association and located at 200 Larch Street Sudbury.

Homelessness Prevention

The local CHPI homelessness prevention program provides assistance for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with:

- ▶ Payment of rental arrears to prevent eviction
- ▶ Payment of last month's rent deposit to become housed
- ▶ Payment of utility arrears and/or connection fees for persons facing utility disconnection
- ▶ Funding for household items under exceptional circumstances

Funding amounts and the application process are consistent with the previous CSUMB Program. The Program is accessed through the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program office for people in receipt of social assistance, and through the Canadian Red Cross for people with low income.

Financial Planning for Increased Funding Allocation

As part of the Province's efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2025 and the long-term goal to end homelessness, the government is introducing a requirement to conduct local enumeration (counts) of people experiencing homelessness, which will be occurring in early 2018. Homeless enumeration will help Service Managers and the Province better understand the scale and nature of homelessness across Ontario, as well as informs current and future policy development and program design. At the time of writing an RFP had closed and required internal evaluation to conduct the Homeless enumeration.

It is recommended that the \$129,303 be used to fund the Homeless Enumeration Point in Time Count in 2018, which is mandated by the Province. The balance of the CHPI funding will be reviewed to provide flexibility that better meet individual's needs to maintain permanent housing. Social Services will also be conducting a review of budget allocations for shelter programs to assess current funding levels which have not changed in several years.

Next Steps

Since the inception of the CHPI program in 2013, funds have been used to maintain existing service levels within emergency shelter programs and a homelessness prevention program modelled after the previous Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB). The review of CHPI funding will be brought back to the Community Services Committee in the first quarter of 2018 with findings and recommendations for the CHPI increases for future years.



City of Greater Sudbury Charter

WHEREAS Municipalities are governed by the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury has established Vision, Mission and Values that give direction to staff and City Councillors;

AND WHEREAS City Council and its associated boards are guided by a Code of Ethics, as outlined in Appendix B of the City of Greater Sudbury's Procedure Bylaw, most recently updated in 2011;

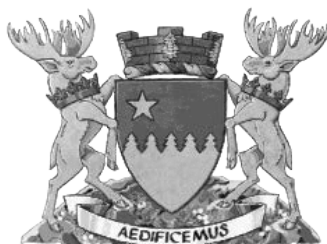
AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury official motto is "Come, Let Us Build Together," and was chosen to celebrate our city's diversity and inspire collective effort and inclusion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the City of Greater Sudbury approves, adopts and signs the following City of Greater Sudbury Charter to complement these guiding principles:

As Members of Council, we hereby acknowledge the privilege to be elected to the City of Greater Sudbury Council for the 2014-2018 term of office. During this time, we pledge to always represent the citizens and to work together always in the interest of the City of Greater Sudbury.

Accordingly, we commit to:

- Perform our roles, as defined in the Ontario Municipal Act (2001), the City's bylaws and City policies;
- Act with transparency, openness, accountability and dedication to our citizens, consistent with the City's Vision, Mission and Values and the City official motto;
- Follow the Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council, and all City policies that apply to Members of Council;
- Act today in the interest of tomorrow, by being responsible stewards of the City, including its finances, assets, services, public places, and the natural environment;
- Manage the resources in our trust efficiently, prudently, responsibly and to the best of our ability;
- Build a climate of trust, openness and transparency that sets a standard for all the City's goals and objectives;
- Always act with respect for all Council and for all persons who come before us;
- Ensure citizen engagement is encouraged and promoted;
- Advocate for economic development, encouraging innovation, productivity and job creation;
- Inspire cultural growth by promoting sports, film, the arts, music, theatre and architectural excellence;
- Respect our historical and natural heritage by protecting and preserving important buildings, landmarks, landscapes, lakes and water bodies;
- Promote unity through diversity as a characteristic of Greater Sudbury citizenship;
- Become civic and regional leaders by encouraging the sharing of ideas, knowledge and experience;
- Work towards achieving the best possible quality of life and standard of living for all Greater Sudbury residents;



Charte de la Ville du Grand Sudbury

ATTENDU QUE les municipalités sont régies par la Loi de 2001 sur les municipalités (Ontario);

ATTENDU QUE la Ville du Grand Sudbury a élaboré une vision, une mission et des valeurs qui guident le personnel et les conseillers municipaux;

ATTENDU QUE le Conseil municipal et ses conseils sont guidés par un code d'éthique, comme l'indique l'annexe B du Règlement de procédure de la Ville du Grand Sudbury dont la dernière version date de 2011;

ATTENDU QUE la devise officielle de la Ville du Grand Sudbury, « Ensemble, bâtissons notre avenir », a été choisie afin de célébrer la diversité de notre municipalité ainsi que d'inspirer un effort collectif et l'inclusion;

QU'IL SOIT RÉSOLU QUE le Conseil de la Ville du Grand Sudbury approuve et adopte la charte suivante de la Ville du Grand Sudbury, qui sert de complément à ces principes directeurs, et qu'il y appose sa signature:

À titre de membres du Conseil, nous reconnaissons par la présente le privilège d'être élus au Conseil du Grand Sudbury pour le mandat de 2014-2018. Durant cette période, nous promettons de toujours représenter les citoyens et de travailler ensemble, sans cesse dans l'intérêt de la Ville du Grand Sudbury.

Par conséquent, nous nous engageons à :

- assumer nos rôles tels qu'ils sont définis dans la Loi de 2001 sur les municipalités, les règlements et les politiques de la Ville;
- faire preuve de transparence, d'ouverture, de responsabilité et de dévouement envers les citoyens, conformément à la vision, à la mission et aux valeurs ainsi qu'à la devise officielle de la municipalité;
- suivre le Code d'éthique des membres du Conseil et toutes les politiques de la municipalité qui s'appliquent à eux;
- agir aujourd'hui pour demain en étant des intendants responsables de la municipalité, y compris de ses finances, biens, services, endroits publics et du milieu naturel;
- gérer les ressources qui nous sont confiées de façon efficiente, prudente, responsable et de notre mieux;
- créer un climat de confiance, d'ouverture et de transparence qui établit une norme pour tous les objectifs de la municipalité;
- agir sans cesse en respectant tous les membres du Conseil et les gens se présentant devant eux;
- veiller à ce qu'on encourage et favorise l'engagement des citoyens;
- plaider pour le développement économique, à encourager l'innovation, la productivité et la création d'emplois;
- être une source d'inspiration pour la croissance culturelle en faisant la promotion de l'excellence dans les domaines du sport, du cinéma, des arts, de la musique, du théâtre et de l'architecture;
- respecter notre patrimoine historique et naturel en protégeant et en préservant les édifices, les lieux d'intérêt, les paysages, les lacs et les plans d'eau d'importance;
- favoriser l'unité par la diversité en tant que caractéristique de la citoyenneté au Grand Sudbury;
- devenir des chefs de file municipaux et régionaux en favorisant les échanges d'idées, de connaissances et concernant l'expérience;
- viser l'atteinte de la meilleure qualité et du meilleur niveau de vie possible pour tous les résidents du Grand Sudbury.