



# Community and Emergency Services Committee Agenda

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Tom Davies Square

Councillor Lapierre, Chair

4:30 p.m. Open Session Council Chamber / Electronic Participation

City of Greater Sudbury Council and Committee meetings are accessible and generally held in the Council Chamber at Tom Davies Square unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Some meetings are broadcast on Eastlink at Eastlink's discretion. With the exception of closed meetings held in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, meetings are open to the public for attendance in-person. Where possible, meetings are livestreamed and the recordings are saved for public viewing on the City's website at: <https://www.greatersudbury.ca/agendas>.

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.

By submitting information, including print or electronic information, for presentation to City Council or Committee you are indicating that you have obtained the consent of persons whose personal information is included in the information to be disclosed to the public.

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](mailto:clerks@greatersudbury.ca).

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

4. **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.

4.1 **Routine Management Reports**

4.1.1 **Healthy Community Initiative Fund Applications – February 20, 2024**

5

This report provides a recommendation regarding Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) funding requests. By-law 2018-129 requires Council’s approval for all eligible HCI Capital fund requests exceeding \$10,000 and Grant requests exceeding \$1,000.

5. **Managers' Reports**

5.1 **Non-Competitive Contract for an Electronic Documentation Management System Service Provider**

11

This report summarizes the requirement of a non-competitive (single source) contract for the procurement of a service provider to deliver Electronic Document Management Services for the Ontario Works program, as delivered by the Children and Social Services Division of the Community Development Department.

6. **Members' Motions**

6.1 **Request for Report on Valley East Twin Pad Multipurpose Sports Complex**

As presented by Councillor Lapierre:

WHEREAS as part of 2022 budget deliberations, City Council approved a business case relating to the construction of the Valley East Twin Pad

Multipurpose Sports Complex, and committed \$9.2 million of funding for the project, conditional on securing funding in the amount of \$20 million from senior levels of government;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury made application to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program for \$21.2 million in federal funding which was not successful;

AND WHEREAS the updated estimated total project cost of the Valley East Twin Pad Multipurpose Sports Complex has increased to \$40.2 million as of January 2023;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to present a report by June 2024 to the Community and Emergency Services Committee providing information on the following, with the intent of reducing the City's financial obligations to realize the project:

- recent multi-pad arena projects from other jurisdictions in Ontario and Canada;
- alternate approaches to arena construction;
- public-private approaches to community sports venues.

## **6.2 Request for Report on Lively Ski Hill Capital Projects**

As presented by Councillor Lapierre:

WHEREAS part the 2024/2025 budget included a capital project for the repurposing of ski hill lift equipment to be installed at the Lively Ski Hill;

AND WHEREAS funding for Lively Ski Hill chalet improvements were previously included in the 2023 capital budget;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury Core Services Review (2020) suggests ski hills are a unique and discretionary services offered by the City of Greater Sudbury;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to suspend all capital work on these projects, other than essential health and safety items, and present a report by April 2024 to the Community and Emergency Services Committee providing information on the following:

- further details on the Lively Ski Hill capital projects including updated project estimates;
- alternatives to continuing with the projects as originally contemplated;
- utilization and operating costs of City of Greater Sudbury operated ski hills;

- recommended utilization targets for ski hills.

### **6.3 Request for Report for a Youth Advisory Panel**

As presented by Councillor Labbee:

WHEREAS as City Council's strategic objective to Create a Healthier and More Vibrant Community includes ideas and opportunities that allow residents to make personal connections with the city as a whole, leading to outcomes that they are integral to, and partly responsible for, the community's success;

AND WHEREAS many Ontario and Canadian municipalities have youth advisory committees to provide a youth perspective on municipal services and projects while providing leadership experience for youth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to present a report by Q3 2024 to the Community and Emergency Services Committee providing information on the following:

- a summary of local youth related initiatives and networks in Greater Sudbury;
- best practices from other provincial/national jurisdictions on municipal youth committees;
- a proposed terms of reference for a youth advisory panel for the City of Greater Sudbury, focusing on youth involvement with local government, civics, and leadership development.

## **7. Correspondence for Information Only**

### **7.1 Early Years System Review-Quality and Inclusion Services**

14

This report provides information regarding the implementation of an Early Years System Review in the areas of quality and inclusion services. An external consultant has been engaged to conduct a sectoral service review and implementation plan as part of the Ministry of Education's Directed Growth and Expansion plan for the City of Greater Sudbury.

## **8. Addendum**

## **9. Civic Petitions**

## **10. Question Period**

## **11. Adjournment**

## Healthy Community Initiative Fund Applications – February 20, 2024

Presented To:	Community and Emergency Services Committee
Meeting Date:	February 20, 2024
Type:	Routine Management Reports
Prepared by:	Steph Mathieu Leisure Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

### Report Summary

This report provides a recommendation regarding Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) funding requests. By-law 2018-129 requires Council’s approval for all eligible HCI Capital fund requests exceeding \$10,000 and Grant requests exceeding \$1,000.

### Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the Healthy Community Initiative Fund requests, as outlined in the report entitled “Healthy Community Initiative Fund Applications – February 20, 2024”, from the General Manager of Community Development, presented at the Community and Emergency Services Committee meeting on February 20, 2024;

AND THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to present a by-law to authorize the grants recommended in the report.

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to the goal: Create a Healthier Community as identified in the Strategic Plan, as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Building Resiliency, Investing in Families, Creating Play Opportunities, Promoting Mental Health Awareness, Achieving Compassionate City Designation, and Implementing an Age-Friendly Strategy. The information in this report has no relationship to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.

### Financial Implications

The Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) Fund is allocated within prescribed budgets. Approval of HCI capital projects includes approval of operating costs to be provided in the base budget in subsequent budget years to the operating department.

### Background

By-law 2018-129 requires Council’s approval for all Grant requests that meet HCI funding criteria and exceed \$1,000, result in an applicant receiving a cumulative total grant of more than \$1,000 in any calendar year or result in an event or initiative receiving a grant of more than \$1,000 due to applications by multiple participants. Council approval is required for all Capital requests that meet HCI funding criteria and exceed

\$10,000. Eligible applications for Grant requests of \$1,000 or less and eligible Capital requests of \$10,000 or less that have an impact on the City's annual operating budget of less than \$5,000 may be approved by the General Manager (GM) of Community Development.

## **HCI Fund Applications and Financial Summary**

Appendix A – Healthy Community Initiative Fund – Applications, lists HCI Fund requests by Ward as recommended by the GM of Community Development for approval by Council. All projects listed in Appendix A have been evaluated against By-law 2018-129 and its related criteria and have been verified to ensure sufficient funds are available within each Ward's funding allocation.

Appendix B – Healthy Community Initiative Fund – Application Outcomes, provides a list of HCI Fund applications that were approved or denied by the GM of Community Development since the last report presented at the Community and Emergency Services Committee meeting on December 11, 2023.

Appendix C – Healthy Community Initiative Fund Financials, includes the recommended approvals contained in this report as well as a summary of HCI Fund allocation balances up to January 22, 2024. The amounts may be adjusted due to reimbursement of under-spent funds from completed and reconciled projects/initiatives.

## **Next Steps**

Upon Council approval, applicants will receive written notification confirming their approved funding and the intended use of funds, and grant recipients will also receive a Post-project Final Report form. This form is to be completed by the applicant and returned following completion of their initiative for reconciliation by Financial Services.

Grant recipients will receive funding via electronic fund transfer or by cheque (where applicable) for the approved amount, whereas a capital funded project will be managed by the City of Greater Sudbury, working closely with the applicant.

HCI funded capital projects will be prioritized based on Leisure Services' (or other assigned operating department's) annual workplans and initiated within 24 months of approval in accordance with the HCI policy.

Should an HCI fund request not be approved, the applicant will be notified of same.

Reconciliation of all 2023 HCI Fund balances will be conducted, and an annual report will be prepared to be received by Council in the spring of 2024.

## **Resources Cited**

Healthy Community Initiative Fund, By-law 2018-219

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/grants-and-funding/hci-fund/application-process/hci-fund-policy/>

**Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) Fund  
Applications for Council Approval – February 20, 2024**

**Grants – 2023 Funds**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Recipient/Initiative</b>	<b>Purpose for Funds</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended for Approval by the GM</b>
2	No One Eats Alone / No One Eats Alone event 2023	Assist with costs related to food expenses	\$3,000	\$3,000

**Grants – 2024 Funds**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Recipient/Initiative</b>	<b>Purpose for Funds</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended for Approval by the GM</b>
3	Onaping Falls Recreation Committee Inc. / Onaping Falls Winter Carnival 2024	Assist with costs related to insurance, events, and activities	\$2,500	\$2,500
6	Four Lakes Community Association / Family Day Event 2024	Assist with costs related to food and refreshments and supplies and prizes for games	\$1,500	\$1,500
6	Valley East Community Action Network / Family Day Event 2024	Assist with costs related to rental of inflatables, sleigh rides, face painting artist, crafts, games, and skating	\$3,000	\$3,000

**Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) Fund  
Applications Approved/Denied by the General Manager of Community  
Development**

For the period of November 9, 2023, to January 22, 2024

**Successful Applications**

**Capital – 2023 Funds**

Ward	Group / Project	Estimated Operating Costs per year	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
2	Masters Swimming Club / R.G. Dow Pool Entrance Stairs	\$100	\$9,802	\$9,802

**Grants – 2024 Funds**

Ward	Group / Project	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
2	Walden Winter Carnival Committee / Assist with costs for performers	\$1,000	\$1,000
7	Lake Wahnapiatae Home and Campers Association / Lake Safety Program 2024	\$750	\$750

**Unsuccessful Applications**

Ward	Group / Project	Amount Requested	Reason(s) for Denial
6	Four Lakes Community Association / Purchase and Installation of Shed	TBD	Four Lakes Community Association does not have a facility on City-owned property, so Capital funds cannot be allocated



**Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) Fund  
Financials for the Period Ending January 22, 2024**

**Schedule 1.1 - Capital (2023 Funds)**

Ward	2023 Allocation	Uncommitted Funds from 2022 (carry forward)	Adjustments from Completed Projects	Approved by General Manager 2023	Approved by Council 2023	Proposed for Approval by Council	Uncommitted Fund Balance After Resolution	Pending Requests
1	\$ 29,217	\$ 72,578			\$ 65,503		\$ 36,292	
2	\$ 29,217	\$ 56,074		\$ 9,802			\$ 75,489	
3	\$ 29,217	\$ 20,337		\$ 10,000			\$ 39,554	
4	\$ 29,217	\$ 75,101					\$ 104,318	\$ 25,000
5	\$ 29,217	\$ 33,715		\$ 9,900			\$ 53,032	
6	\$ 29,217	\$ 128,187			\$ 25,000		\$ 132,404	
7	\$ 29,217	\$ 69,340			\$ 10,000		\$ 88,557	
8	\$ 29,217	\$ 52,858		\$ 10,000	\$ 75,000		\$ (0)	
9	\$ 29,217	\$ 1,143		\$ 15,500			\$ 14,860	
10	\$ 29,217	\$ 147,497	\$ 13,321		\$ 125,000		\$ 65,035	
11	\$ 29,217	\$ 30,351	\$ 5				\$ 59,573	\$ 8,900
12	\$ 29,217	\$ 54,444	\$ 3,255		\$ 23,110		\$ 63,806	

**Schedule 1.2 - Grants (2023 Funds)**

Ward	2023 Allocation	Adjustments from Underspent Initiatives	Approved by General Manager 2023	Approved by Council 2023	Proposed for Approval by Council	Uncommitted Fund Balance After Resolution	Pending Funding Requests
1	\$ 12,500		\$ 2,250			\$ 10,250	
2	\$ 12,500		\$ 1,000		\$ 3,000	\$ 8,500	
3	\$ 12,500		\$ 2,500	\$ 10,000		\$ -	
4	\$ 12,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 11,500		\$ 1,000	
5	\$ 12,500	\$ 785	\$ 500	\$ 8,000		\$ 4,785	
6	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
7	\$ 12,500		\$ 3,750			\$ 8,750	
8	\$ 12,500			\$ 2,000		\$ 7,575	
9	\$ 12,500	\$ 66	\$ 1,850	\$ 850		\$ 9,866	
10	\$ 12,500		\$ 2,250			\$ 10,250	
11	\$ 12,500		\$ 250	\$ 4,528		\$ 7,722	
12	\$ 12,500		\$ 250	\$ 2,000		\$ 10,250	

\* There were no contributions to the HCI Reserve Fund in 2023 as the maximum threshold of \$24,000 was achieved in 2021.

\* Funds from 25% grant allocation indicated in Schedule 1.2 - Grants may be used toward Capital

**Note:** Ward 4 adjustment: surplus of \$2,500 from We're in Good Hands

**Note:** Ward 5 adjustment: surplus of \$784.58 from VECAN Canada Day

**Note:** Ward 9 adjustment: surplus of \$66.28 from Coniston Canada Day

**Note:** Ward 10 adjustment: surplus of \$13,321 from Nepahwin Water Bottle Refill Station/Fountain

**Note:** Ward 11 adjustment: surplus of \$5 from Adanac Multi-use Shack

**Note:** Ward 11 adjustment: deficit of \$27.80 from Westmount Grandparents' Day

**Note:** Ward 12 adjustment: surplus of \$3,255 from Ridgecrest Adult Exercise Equipment

**Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) Fund  
Financials for the Period Ending January 22, 2024**

**Schedule 1.3 - Capital (2024 Funds)**

Ward	2024 Allocation	Uncommitted Funds from 2023 (carry forward)	Adjustments from Completed Projects	Approved by General Manager 2024	Approved by Council 2024	Proposed for Approval by Council	Uncommitted Fund Balance After Resolution	Pending Requests
1	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
2	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
3	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
4	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	\$ 25,000
5	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
6	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
7	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
8	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
9	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
10	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	
11	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	\$ 8,500
12	\$ 29,217	TBD					\$ 29,217	

**Schedule 1.4 - Grants (2024 Funds)**

Ward	2024 Allocation	Adjustments from Underspent Initiatives	Approved by General Manager 2024	Approved by Council 2024	Proposed for Approval by Council	Uncommitted Fund Balance After Resolution	Pending Funding Requests
1	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
2	\$ 12,500		\$ 1,000			\$ 11,500	
3	\$ 12,500				\$ 2,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,500
4	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
5	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
6	\$ 12,500				\$ 4,500	\$ 8,000	
7	\$ 12,500		\$ 750			\$ 11,750	
8	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
9	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
10	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
11	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	
12	\$ 12,500					\$ 12,500	

\* There were no contributions to the HCI Reserve Fund in 2024 as the maximum threshold of \$24,000 was achieved in 2021.

## **Non-Competitive Contract for an Electronic Documentation Management System Service Provider**

Presented To:	Community and Emergency Services Committee
Meeting Date:	February 20, 2024
Type:	Managers' Reports
Prepared by:	Rob Blackwell Children and Social Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

### **Report Summary**

This report summarizes the requirement of a non-competitive (single source) contract for the procurement of a service provider to deliver Electronic Document Management Services for the Ontario Works program, as delivered by the Children and Social Services Division of the Community Development Department.

### **Resolution**

WHEREAS the Electronic Document Management (EDM) system shall improve the user experience, administrative efficiencies and process optimization through the digitization of paper into digital records;

WHEREAS Nimble Digital Information Strategies (Nimble) is the vendor of record for the Province of Ontario and several other municipalities that have implemented an EDM system for Ontario Works document management;

WHEREAS Nimble has specific expertise in providing EDM services to Ontario Works offices, including the necessary technical expertise with the Province's proprietary applications (SAMS, OPSDocs) and it is anticipated that adopting the already established processes and workflows would greatly reduce the overall cost of initial start-up and implementation

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the non-competitive (single source) contract and standing offer agreement

### **Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)**

This initiative provides for a reduction in the use of paper and will generate service efficiencies, leading to improved customer service outcomes.

## Financial Implications

If approved, the value of the contract to complete the implementation will be approximately \$122,000. The Children and Social Services Division has been successful in a funding application to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for approximately \$61,000, representing a 50/50 cost share for the one-time implementation costs. The value of the required ongoing services under the standing offer agreement, which will be on an “as and required” basis, are not expected to exceed \$30,000 per annum. These annualized costs will be offset by efficiencies of the digital strategy.

## Background

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has developed an Electronic Document Management (EDM) model as part of its Social Assistance Reform mandate. EDM provides the foundational base for enhanced user experience, administrative efficiencies, and process optimization through the digitization of paper into digital records accessible through the online application for administering the Ontario Works program – the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS).

It is anticipated that EDM will reduce the amount of time spent on document management functions, and will create opportunities for enhanced service delivery, free time for active case management functions, and enable staff to make faster decisions so that Social Assistance recipients can receive the supports and services they need when they need them.

Currently, there are approximately 37 (out of a total of 47) Ontario Works offices that have adopted EDM, with the anticipated benefits of the project being:

### Strengthen Program Integrity

- Incorporate automation of program rules for document
- Document audibility and performance management
- Consolidation/Streamlining of document channels

### Enhance Program Access and Usability

- Expanded service access and increase service channels
- Electronic access to Social Assistance recipient documents
- Improved Social Assistance recipient experience and outcomes

### Introduce Service System Efficiencies

- Reduced paper handling, administrative work & misfiled records
- Increased focus on high impact client-centered activities
- Allow for real-time transfer of Social Assistance recipient document records
- Allows for cost avoidance, savings, and time efficiencies
- Strengthens and automates records management processes

### Functional Integration

- Deliver scalable and adaptable solution that supports future enterprise needs
- Allows for government service channel/benefits integration

### Other opportunity benefits

- Renders obsolete the need for dedicated floor space at each location for document filing, resulting in reduced real estate costs or opportunity to repurpose office space

The Province of Ontario has selected Nimble Digital Information Strategies (Nimble) as the vendor of record for their directly provided services (the Ontario Disability Support Program), and thus far, all 37 Ontario Works offices that have implemented EDM have also entered into service agreements with Nimble.

As per Section 22. (1) (b) of the City of Greater Sudbury Purchasing By-Law, a Single Source Purchase may

be recommended by the Authorized Person for one or more of the following reasons:

- (i) the standardization or compatibility of a Purchase with existing equipment, product standards, facilities or services is a paramount consideration.
- (ii) a Good is purchased for testing or trial use.
- (iii) competition is absent for technical reasons and the Goods, Services and/or Construction Services can only be supplied by a particular supplier.
- (iv) the City has a rental contract with a purchase option and such a purchase option is beneficial to the City.
- (v) no bids were received in response to a Bid Solicitation or Quotation Procedure; or,
- (vi) a business case can be made to establish that the purchase is in the best interests of the City.

Furthermore, applicable trade agreements allow for non-competitive purchasing under the following exemption:

CFTA Article 513/CETA Article 19.12: 1. (b) if the goods or service can be supplied by only a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute goods or services exist for any of the following reason: (iii) due to absence of competition for technical reasons.

In this instance, staff request that City the Council consider Nimble has specific expertise in providing EDM services to Ontario Works offices, including the necessary technical expertise with the Province's proprietary applications (SAMS, OPSDocs) and it is anticipated that adopting the already established processes and workflows would greatly reduce the overall cost of initial start-up and implementation.

Staff is requesting that Greater Sudbury City Council authorize the non-competitive (single source) procurement, and the ability for the Children & Social Services Division to enter into a five-year agreement with Nimble for the provision of electronic document management services.

## **Next Steps**

If approved, Staff will develop the agreement with the vendor, establish the project team and complete the required activities to implement the electronic document management system for Ontario Works.

## **Resources Cited**

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/by-laws/by-law-pdfs-en/c-by-law-2014-1/>

## Early Years System Review-Quality and Inclusion Services

Presented To:	Community and Emergency Services Committee
Meeting Date:	February 20, 2024
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
Prepared by:	Miranda Mackie Children and Social Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

### Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the implementation of an Early Years System Review in the areas of quality and inclusion services. An external consultant has been engaged to conduct a sectoral service review and implementation plan as part of the Ministry of Education’s Directed Growth and Expansion plan for the City of Greater Sudbury.

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This provision of high-quality and accessible early learning and childcare services supports Council’s Strategic Plan of Economic Capacity and Investment Readiness and Create a Healthier and More Vibrant Community.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to this report.

### Background

The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (CWELCC) aims to provide greater access to affordable and high-quality childcare. Participating CWELCC licensed childcare programs have had their fees reduced by 52.75 percent. The City of Greater Sudbury has a high provincial enrollment rate for CWELCC with approximately 97 percent of eligible childcare spaces enrolling in the program in 2022.

CWELCC also seeks to increase the number of childcare spaces available for families. The province has committed to the creation of approximately 86,000 new licensed childcare spaces in Ontario, of which, approximately 53,000 spaces remain to be created by 2026. In December 2022, the province released a draft Access and Inclusion Framework which sets a foundation for targeted CWELCC childcare expansion. The intention of the Framework is to focus on creating spaces in priority communities that will support access to licensed childcare for: low-income families; vulnerable communities; diverse communities; children with special needs; Francophone families; Indigenous families; and families needing flexible models of care.

## **CWELCC Targeted Child Care Expansion**

The City of Greater Sudbury was provided a nominal allocation of 257 (91 school-based and 166 community-based) new childcare spaces for CWELCC childcare expansion to be developed by 2026. Planning is underway in targeted neighborhoods for the space expansion to be finalized ahead of schedule by the end of 2024.

As required by the Ministry of Education, the City of Greater Sudbury Children Services will develop a Directed Growth and Expansion Plan that will identify priority neighborhoods for expansion. In addition to the socioeconomic factors identified by the province, an online mapping tool will be used to layer childcare demand and demographic factors to identify priority communities, including:

- Current high childcare demand for families waiting for care;
- Incorporate the community plan and population growth areas;
- Vulnerable communities such as low-income housing, high public transit area, diverse communities.

Based on these above factors, CWELCC childcare expansion for the City of Greater Sudbury will target the neighborhoods of New Sudbury, West End and South End. Any Capital investment required for renovation costs in targeted expansion sites would be funded by General Operating Grant, which is an 80-20% cost share between the Province and the City.

The identification of priority communities was based on available data sources and reflects current childcare demand. Families will continue to access affordable childcare at existing CWELCC-enrolled sites in communities that were not identified as priorities.

Further, childcare expansion in communities not defined as priorities will continue through licensed home childcare. There is room for expansion within the licensed capacity of licensed home childcare as many childcare centers are operating below the current licensed capacity and therefore licensed home childcare is permitted to expand up to their licensed capacity. As Children Services collaborates with childcare operators to determine the feasibility of growth in priority communities, monitors supply and demand, and receives updated local data, more childcare operators may be considered for expansion.

## **Early Years System Review – Key Priorities**

The provision of quality licensed childcare services supports early childhood learning which is vital to a child's development and offers an opportunity for the best start in life for young children and the future workforce. As well, licensed childcare services are recognized as essential to the economic well-being of a community by enabling parents to work or attend school. The global pandemic has demonstrated how crucial access to affordable licensed childcare is to the economic recovery in Canada, in part leading to the federal government moving forward with a national childcare plan.

This system review will provide Children Services with key recommendations for service integration aligning with the priorities of the Access and Inclusion Framework. It will focus on the provision of services for children and families with special needs and vulnerabilities in early childhood development as well as quality consultation services.

In addition, the review will include consultation with members of local stakeholder groups across the sector such as School Boards, specialized services with HSN, mental health leads, and licensed childcare service providers to inform them of the recommendations for the final report and work plan. Focus groups will also be scheduled with front-line staff across the early learning and childcare sector as well as with parents and caregivers. The external consultant will conduct the targeted consultations to promote full transparency and confidentiality while ensuring that the recommendations in the final report are representative of key priorities. The expenses related to the Consultation and Final Report, Professional Learning Plan for 2024-2025 for the sector, and

Program Evaluation Framework will be funded by General Operating and Professional Learning Grants, which are an 80-20% cost share between the Province and the City.

## **Next Steps**

Children Services will release the Directed Growth and Expansion Plan for the City of Greater Sudbury by March 2024 including our priority communities, the expansion application process, and the recommendations from our Early Years System Review for public knowledge. The information will be posted on the City's website.

## **Resources Cited**

[Ministry of Education Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Guidelines](#)