

## Request for Decision

### Child Care Subsidies at City Day Camps

Presented To: Community Services  
Committee

Presented: Monday, Apr 30, 2012

Report Date Tuesday, Apr 17, 2012

Type: Managers' Reports

### Recommendation

Whereas several of the summer camp programs offered by the City of Greater Sudbury meet the guidelines to be included in the City of Greater Sudbury's Child Care Subsidy program; and

Whereas the Children Services Section and Leisure Services Division have strategic goals to enhance collaboration between City programs and to reduce barriers to participation for citizens; and

Whereas there is capacity in the Child Care Subsidy Program to fund additional subsidized spaces;

Therefore be it resolved that the City offer Child Care Care Subsidies to eligible children for Camp Sudaca, Camp Wassakwa and Sensational Summer Programs.

### Finance Implications

Funding to pay for children to attend City Day Camps will come from the regular Child Care Subsidy budget. The Child Care Subsidy program is funded by the Ministry of Education, with contributions from the City based on the Provincial funding formula. There is currently capacity in the Child Care Subsidy budget for additional subsidies.

## Background

The Child Care Subsidy Program is administered by the Children Services Section and assisted over 3100 children in 2600 families last year to access quality child care. Full and partial Child Care Subsidies are provided to families on a sliding scale based on a Provincially set income test. The program is funded by the Ministry of Education, with contributions from the City based on the provincial funding formula. There is currently capacity in the Child Care Subsidy budget for additional subsidies.

The Children Services Section maintains Purchase of Service agreements with 23 agencies and organizations, who provide approximately 90 child care programs. City staff provides monitoring and

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support through the “Program Quality Indicators” (PQI) program, to ensure that programs are delivering high quality, responsive programming. Families eligible for child care subsidy choose the program that is best suited to their child and family’s needs.

In its 2011 Strategic Plan, Children Services identified the need to work more closely with other City programs and services for children. Specifically, the Children Services Strategic Plan proposed to assess the feasibility of combining the planning of programs to enhance coordination and quality across all children’s programming within the City of Greater Sudbury. The 2011 Leisure Services Strategic included a goal to develop inclusive, dynamic and fiscally responsible leisure and recreation programming, in part by reducing financial barriers to participation in their programs.

In the summer of 2011, the City made improvements to summer programs for children with Developmental Disabilities. The City shifted the delivery of the Summer Developmental Centre for teens at Gatchell School to a local specialized service agency and parents of children under 12 with disabilities were assisted to enter the licensed child care sector, with support from the Child Care Inclusion and Subsidy programs. These changes meant that more children and teens could have access to specialized programs to meet their needs within the existing budget.

## **Providing Child Care Subsidy in Selected City Operated Summer Day Camps**

In the summer of 2012, it is proposed that the child care subsidy program be expanded to include the City’s Summer Day Camp programs. Starting July 2012, families of children aged 6-12 (or older if children have identified special needs) who are eligible for child care subsidy will be able to select from Camp Sudaca, Camp Wassakwa or Sensational Summer Programs, in addition to the licensed child care programs that are already part of the Child Care Subsidy program.

After receiving approval for child care subsidy, families would be able to register their children for the camps in person at Citizen Service Centres and no distinction would be made between subsidized and full fee paying children.

Funding to pay for children to attend City Day Camps will come from the regular Child Care Subsidy budget. This change will not create any new costs for the City.

The addition of the City’s Day Camp programs to the Child Care Subsidy program will increase choices for eligible children and families, and will make the City’s Summer Day Camp programs accessible to families who have had financial barriers to accessing them in the past. The Children Services Section will include the Leisure Services Day Camp Programs in its PQI Quality Assurance program and the Children Services’ PQI staff will provide training and support to the staff of these programs, to ensure the highest quality possible in City Day Camp programs.