



March 30, 2006

The Regional  
Municipality  
of Durham

Clerk's Department

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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., C.M.M.I.  
Regional Clerk

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty  
Premier and  
Minister of Research and Innovation  
Room 281, Main Legislative Building  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

**RE: FEDERAL EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE  
PROGRAM. OUR FILE: S06-01**

Prime Minister and Premier, the Health and Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on March 29, 2006, Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"WHEREAS the Region of Durham will receive \$25 million in Best Start funding which will add 770 new licensed child care spaces by the end of 2007; and

WHEREAS the Region has approved the Child Care Service Plan for 2005-2006 and the Best Start Transitional Implementation Plan and Infrastructure Plan; and

WHEREAS purchase of service within the for-profit child care will be maintained at no more than the current level; and

WHEREAS the cancellation of the Federal Early Learning and Child Care program by the new Conservative government puts the Region of Durham's child care system and those new spaces in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS the lost funding will leave many children in Durham Region without quality accessible child care; and

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WHEREAS the Conservative Government's proposed child care income support for families is a valid policy goal but is not a substitute for public investment in high quality early learning and child care programs; and

WHEREAS less than \$100.00 a month, after taxes, comes nowhere close to covering the cost of high quality child care, and tax credits for employers will not create sustainable, equitable child care programs; and

WHEREAS without a national child care program, there will be no choice in child care for parents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Durham Regional Council and the residents of Durham Region, work with the federal and provincial governments to preserve the national child care program and the Ontario federal-provincial child care agreement by:

- i) introducing standards that guarantee quality, universally accessible, developmental, inclusive programming like the Canada Health Act, the principles of child care needs to be enshrined in legislation;
- ii) maintaining existing federal commitments (Canada Social Transfer, Early Childhood Development Initiative and Multilateral Framework Agreement funding);
- iii) dedicating a separate adequate designated funding stream for a new, long-term federal transfer to provinces and territories; and
- iv) including provincial and territorial accountability, tied to five-year plans that include goals and objectives, timelines and targets, review and evaluation as they build new Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Region of Durham work with families, child care programs and child care advocacy groups to ensure that the federal government fulfills its five-year funding commitment to build a national early learning and child care system in the Region of Durham, and Canada;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be circulated to the other municipalities in Durham Region and all Durham Region MPPs and MPs, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, AMO, FCM, OMSSA, the members of the Best Start Network and all School Boards in Durham Region."



P.M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMMI  
Regional Clerk

PMM/cg

c: Please See Attached List