



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

To / Destinataire	Chair and Members Community and Protective Services Committee	File/N° de fichier:
From / Expéditeur	Dan Chenier General Manager, Recreation, Cultural & Facilities Services	Janice Burelle General Manager, Community & Social Services
Subject / Objet	Provincial Child Care Early Years Act / Impacts to Before and After School Recreation Programs	Date: 11 May 2017

This memorandum is to provide Mayor and Members of Council with information regarding some of the impacts of the *Provincial Child Care Early Years Act* on City of Ottawa before and after school recreation programs. Under the new Provincial Regulations, effective September 1, 2017 the City's recreation programs will only be permitted to offer programs to children between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age by December 31, 2017. As well, the City can only provide each child with a maximum of 3 consecutive hours of programming per day, meaning that the same child will not be able to participate in both our before and after school programs.

Over the last few months, City and Provincial officials have been exploring options that would allow the City to continue to serve 4 and 5-year-old children, as Authorized Recreation Providers under the Act. This goal could only be accomplished by converting our 33 before and after school recreation programs into licensed child care facilities.

City staff has reviewed the option of moving to licensed child care at all our service locations and concluded that this would lead to a significant cost increase for parents. Providing licensed programs would require the City to significantly change its present staffing and supervisory structure to meet licensing requirements. Less than 6 per cent of our existing clients will not be able to register in the fall as a result of the change in regulations as they will be under the age of 6. In order to accommodate the 6 per cent the City would have to increase fees by approximately 76 per cent for all before and after school participants in order to offset the additional program costs. This would place the price for the City's recreation programs in the same range as those currently offered by licensed care providers and extended day school based programs.

Over 94 per cent of existing participants are, or will be, between 6 and 12 years of age by December 31, 2017, and therefore will be able to continue in our current recreation programs.

All current client families were sent an initial letter on February 17 notifying them of the changes to regulations. A second letter is also being sent this week advising participants in our programs that the City's before and after school programs will only be accepting children between the ages of 6 and 12 years old and will only be permitted to attend either before or after school care, but not both. To facilitate the impacted families in their search for child care the Children's Services Branch has prepared an information sheet on how to find licensed child care in Ottawa and how

to apply for a subsidy. Parents who are looking for care for their 4 and 5 year old children for the fall of 2017 can register on the Child Care Registry and Waitlist, which will provide them options in licensed home, centre or school-based Extended Day Programs. The City of Ottawa remains committed to helping parents find quality and affordable child care.

For additional information please visit the City's website at www.ottawa.ca/daycare. Staff will be reaching out to your offices to identify impacted residents in your wards so that we can assist families find alternative child care placements in your respective communities. Please have residents with specific questions e-mail staff at childcare@ottawa.ca or call Jocelyne Des Rivières at 613-580-2424 extension 13588 for support.

Dan Chenier
Janice Burelle

c.c. Mayor and Members of City Council
Senior Leadership Team