

**City Council, Standing Committee and Commission
Conseil, comités permanents et commission**

Motion

Notice of Motion / Avis de

Council / Conseil

Report / Agenda: City Council Agenda 37

Item / Article: Motion Requiring Suspension of the *Rules of Procedure*

Re: Child Care Recovery Plan

Moved by / Motion de: **Councillor T. Kavanagh**
Seconded by / Appuyée par: **Councillor R. Brockington**

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended to consider the following Motion, as the next City Council meeting is not until August 26, 2020.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario declared a State of Emergency on March 17, 2020, closing all public spaces, including child care centres; and

WHEREAS, childcare centres have been permitted to re-open in a slow, and methodical approach; and

WHEREAS the economic recovery of Ottawa and Ontario depends on families having access to affordable child care, including before and after-school care; and

WHEREAS women are more likely to be disproportionately excluded from the workforce when childcare services are inaccessible (Statistics Canada, 2017); and

WHEREAS the capacity of child care programs has been limited by the smaller group sizes that prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: before the emergency measures, there was only capacity in licensed child care for one in three children in Ottawa; and

WHEREAS an investment in child care is a proven support to our economic recovery, particularly women's return to the workforce (Fortin, 2017); and

WHEREAS Ottawa City Council increased access to affordable, quality and responsive childcare services a priority in the Thriving Communities 2019-2022 Term of Council Priorities; and

WHEREAS the Provincial, Federal and Municipal governments each have a role in funding and delivering child care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Ottawa City Council request the Government of Ontario prioritize children as part of the overall recovery plan and develop and release publicly a comprehensive plan to ensure a safe, full capacity return in the fall to licensed children and Early ON services to assist the wellbeing of children and families and to help with the economic recovery. This comprehensive plan needs to be communicated with sufficient time for providers to implement and to better support families for the fall; and

BE IT FURTHER REOLVED that City Council request the Government of Ontario provide clarity to municipalities on the total provincial allocation in order fully utilize supports for families and providers and to not create undue municipal pressures and continue to provide stable and ongoing provincial funding for licensed child care centres / home providers, and EarlyON providers for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure these providers can continue to support families with increased health and safety measures while avoiding any cost increases for families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council request the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to develop a National Child Care Strategy to make child care more accessible for all families, which is essential to economic recovery.