

January 12, 2022

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

City of St. Catharines
Legal and Clerks Services
Office of the City Clerk
Box 3012, 50 Church Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7C2

ATTN: Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk
bdunk@stcatharines.ca

RE: National Childcare Program

Please be advised the Council of The Corporation of The Town of Niagara-on-the Lake, at its regular meeting held on December 20, 2021, passed a motion in support of The City of St. Catharines resolution in regard to the National Childcare Program,

“WHEREAS the province of Ontario has the most expensive childcare in the country, presenting a financial hardship for many families and a barrier for women’s full economic participation; and

WHEREAS the \$34 billion early learning and childcare spending commitment announced this year by the federal government will bring transformative change to childcare by lowering parent fees and expanding the supply of regulated not-for-profit and public childcare in this country; and

WHEREAS the federal government has already reached childcare agreements with BC, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec; and

WHEREAS the provisions of each agreement vary to some degree, but the majority of the jurisdictions have agreed to use the federal funds to:

- (a) lower parent fees by 50 per cent by the end of 2022 and to \$10 a day by 2025-26 or sooner;*
- (b) improve the wages and working conditions of early childhood educators, and*
- (c) publicly fund the expansion of not-profit and public childcare;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines request that the provincial government take the necessary steps to work with the federal government on a bilateral agreement to ensure the new national child care program be made available to Ontarians, and that it focuses on increased access, affordability, quality and responsiveness, all of which are essential to the COVID-19 pandemic response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff actively monitor federal developments and engage in provincial and regional discussions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council request the City Clerk circulate Council's decision to other municipalities in Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario."

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our office at 905-468-3266.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen Hutt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Colleen Hutt
Acting Town Clerk

c.c. Premier Doug Ford - doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Niagara Area MPPs
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association - info@omssa.com
Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario - amo@amo.on.ca