

September 1, 2020

Council Session CL 15-2020, August 13, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

**RE: Motion – Child Care
Minute Item 11.1 CL 15-2020, August 13, 2020**

Regional Council, at its meeting held on August 13, 2020, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Region of Niagara and Niagara's twelve local area municipalities jointly declared a state of emergency on April 3, 2020 to protect the health of our communities;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a destructive toll on Niagara's economy, resulting in business closures, job losses or a reduction of wages for Niagara residents and families;

WHEREAS women have been disproportionately impacted by these economic impacts, or have had to leave the labour market altogether in order to provide child care or home-schooling;

WHEREAS the provision of child care benefits employers, is proven to support economic recovery, but also leads to greater workforce participation by women and supports their return to the workforce;

WHEREAS the economic recovery of the Niagara Region and Ontario is dependent on families having access to safe, reliable, and affordable child care that incorporates early learning principles; and

WHEREAS a 2012 study on the economic value of child care identified that every dollar invested in child care in Ontario has a direct regional economic output of \$2.27.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Niagara Region **REQUEST** that:
 - a. The Government of Ontario prioritize children and child care as part of our overall post-pandemic recovery plan;
 - b. The Government of Ontario develop, adequately fund and release publicly a comprehensive plan that can support families through the provision of licensed child care and early learning education; and
 - c. The Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada work collaboratively to develop a National Child Care Strategy to make child care an essential part of our public infrastructure that can support and expedite economic recovery; and
2. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to those upper and single tier municipalities who are designated by the province as municipal service managers for childcare and local area MPPs and MPs.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

CLK-C 2020-185

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