2006-05-04

TO: All Ontario municipalities with populations greater than 50,000

Dear Sirs:

RE: TERMINATION OF CANADA-ONTARIO AGREEMENT – EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE SERVICES THROUGH BEST START PROGRAM

This will confirm that at the regular meeting of Kingston City Council held on May 2, 2006, the following resolution, being Clause 2., Report No. 60, was approved:

2. WHEREAS accessible and affordable regulated childcare service options are recognized as both an essential community service for young families and a significant early learning and development experience for preschool children; and WHEREAS the Federal Government's termination of the Moving Forward on Early Learning and Child Care Funding Agreement with the provinces will significantly reduce funding available for the expansion of childcare spaces in the City of Kingston and Frontenac County, as proposed by the Kingston Frontenac Best Start Network; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kingston City Council formally petition the Federal Government to reconsider termination of the Canada-Ontario Agreement so that Kingston and Ontario can implement the expansion of early learning and childcare services envisioned through the Best Start Program;

- and further –

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Peter Milliken, MP for Kingston and the Islands; Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Bill Graham, MP, Interim Leader of the Liberal Party; Jack Layton, MP, Leader of the NDP, Gilles Duceppe, MP, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois; the Honourable John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and the Islands; and for endorsement to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and all Ontario municipalities with populations greater than 50,000.

CARRIED

Yours truly,

Carolyn Downs
City Clerk

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cc: L. Thurston, Commissioner, Community Development Services
Councillor B. Pater
S. Powley, Committee Clerk (Arts, Recreation & Community Policies)

File No.