
DATE: October 1, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **WEEK OF THE CHILD – OCTOBER 17 TO 25, 2009**
CHILD CARE WORKER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
APPRECIATION DAY – OCTOBER 21, 2009

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the week of October 17 to 25, 2009, be proclaimed “Week of the Child” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that October 21, 2009, be proclaimed “Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day” in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The month of October celebrates two significant events recognizing both children and Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators in the Region of Peel.
- The Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO) requests the week of October 17 to 25 be proclaimed as the Week of the Child in the Region of Peel
- The week provides a time for communities to celebrate and focus on the young children of Ontario and to educate the public about the values of quality Early Childhood Education.
- The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) requests that Wednesday, October 21, 2009 be proclaimed Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in the Region of Peel
- This day raises awareness about the valuable role and contribution of Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Workers in the lives of children, their families and the broader community in Peel.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

During the month of October we recognize children through the celebration of two significant events: The Week of the Child and the Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day. The objective of the first event, The Week of the Child, is a time within our Peel communities to reflect on the rights and needs of our children, which is in keeping with Peel’s Children’s Charter of Rights; renew our commitment to improve the quality of opportunities for all children; and review how well we care for and educate the future adults, parents and leaders in Peel.

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Each year during the Week of the Child, the Peel Branch of the AECEO effectively encourages the community to participate through its “Krayons for Kids” campaign. This campaign for craft materials and monetary donations has benefited local organizations such as the Gardenview Ontario Early Years Centre, Victims Witness Program of the Brampton Ontario Court House of Justice, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel, Hospital for Sick Kids 8D Oncology Cancer Clinic, Peel Family Shelter, Armagh House, the William Osler Centre’s Child Life Worker Program, and most recently in 2008 Peel Children’s Centre. The 2009 “Krayons for Kids” Award recipient will be announced during the Week of the Child celebration event.

As a complement to this exciting week of events, the OCBCC has requested that we set aside a day (October 21) to celebrate Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day for the many people who are dedicated to providing early learning and care to our young children in Peel. This year’s theme will be “Proud to Work in Early Learning and Child Care.”

2. Supporting the Proclamations

The Human Services Department annually recognize the Week of the Child and Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in a variety of ways, including planned children’s events and recognition of each staff member for their dedication and commitment to children.

a) Human Services Contribution

Peel residents who qualify for early learning, child care, financial, employment and social housing supports to enhance their quality of life should have access to the services. In this regard, Human Services share many common objectives of the AECEO Peel Branch and the OCBCC who believe in investing in early childhood educators and caregivers through ongoing professional development; assessing the needs of children and ensuring that those needs are being met; informing parents and other Peel citizens about the range, quality and value of early learning and child care; and encouraging collaboration among existing services.

Peel Region achieves these common objectives through a variety of services and programs such as:

1. Regional Learn.Play.Care Child Care Centres that also serve children with special needs, Infant Therapeutic program, Shelters and Open the Door Program.
2. Management for 24,000 licensed child care spaces including subsidy for 7,000 children;
3. Employment and Financial Services, provides through the Ontario Works Program, and Families First.
4. Housing and Homelessness supports through Peel Living units, Rent Supplements and Housing Allowance programs and the management of 47 housing providers
5. Social Policy and Community based supports such as Success by Six and Neighborhood Capacity Building in the Knightsbridge and Colonial Terrace community.

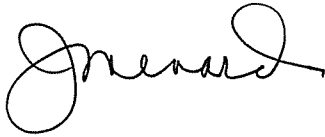
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CONCLUSION

Regional Council's support in proclaiming the Week of the Child and Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day will demonstrate commitment to the children of Peel and employees who have devoted themselves in influencing the lives of children, families and community.



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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c. Legislative Services

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APPENDIX I

Proclamation

WEEK OF THE CHILD

October 17 to 25, 2009

WHEREAS the Region of Peel, Human Services provide leadership in the effective planning, management, development and delivery of a range of high quality child care services in the Region of Peel;

AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel operates 12 Learn.Play.Care Child Care Centers with 850 licensed spaces throughout Brampton and Mississauga, providing financial assistance so that families can access high quality licensed early learning and child care, and support programs throughout Peel;

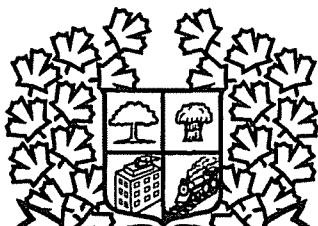
AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel's Learn.Play.Care Child Care Centers offer children an inclusive learning environment where they develop intellectually by receiving early learning opportunities in all aspects of the program;

AND WHEREAS, access to and informed choices about child care allow parents to participate in the workforce or increase skills through training and education;

AND WHEREAS, children are vital to the growth and spirit of communities;

AND WHEREAS, Regional Council accepted, endorsed and supported the Peel Children's Charter of Rights, presented by Success by Six on May 24, 2007.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the week of October 17 to 25, 2009 be proclaimed **WEEK OF THE CHILD** in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

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APPENDIX II

Proclamation

CHILD CARE WORKER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY

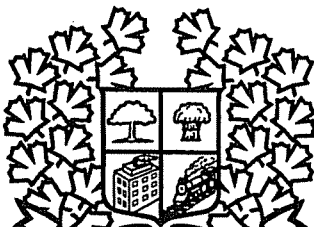
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WHEREAS thirty-five years of research confirms the benefits of high quality early learning and child care for young children’s intellectual, emotional, social and physical development and later life outcomes;

AND WHEREAS, child care promotes the well-being of children and responds to the needs of parents, child care workers and the broader community by supporting quality of life so that citizens can fully participate in and contribute to the economic and social life of their community;

AND WHEREAS, recent studies clearly show trained and knowledgeable child care workers are the most important element in quality child care, and further that good wages and working conditions are associated with higher job satisfaction and morale, lower staff turnover, all of which predict higher quality child care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT October 21, 2009 be proclaimed the ninth annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in the Regional Municipality of Peel in recognition of the influence, dedication and commitment of child care workers and early childhood educators to children, their families, and the quality of life of the community.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair