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Region of Peel
Working for you

REPORT
Regional Council

DATE: August 19, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **PROCLAMATION OF EVENTS**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That October 2010 be proclaimed "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that October 17 to 25, 2010 be proclaimed "Week of the Child" in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that October 21, 2010 be proclaimed "Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Appreciation Day" in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that November 20, 2010 be proclaimed "National Child Day" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Peel Children's Aid joins children's aid societies across the province in building awareness of the problem of child abuse in our community through the child Abuse Prevention Campaign
- October 2010, be proclaimed as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Region of Peel
- The Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO) requests the week of October 17 to 25, 2010 be proclaimed as the Week of the Child in the Region of Peel
- The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) requests that October 21, 2010 be proclaimed the child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in the Region of Peel
- Canada's National Child Day is commemorated November 20th each year as enacted by the Parliament of Canada. It ensures that the voices of children are taken into account in all Canadian economic, social and political decisions.
- During event weeks, a wide variety of activities and information are offered to residents and employees of the Region of Peel.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

Through the proclamation of events, the Region of Peel demonstrates its commitment to educating the public and building awareness of the importance of social issues. This report consolidates proclamations requests for four causes that highlight children and those that provide care in the field of early learning and childcare.

The Human Services and Health Services Departments take lead roles in celebrating and proclaiming these event weeks through their commitments to strengthening individual, family and neighbourhood capacity; investing in human services; and providing accessible, high quality client centred services.

The Peel Children's Aid is a partner in the Peel community in providing leadership on issues that affect vulnerable children and to ensure child protection services are carried out in a responsible manner. Peel Children's Aid also provides care for children and youth who cannot remain in their own homes; however, only after significant efforts to support children in their family home have been attempted.

During Peel Children's Aid's fiscal year (April 2009 – March 2010), Peel Children's Aid responded to 11, 654 calls, about children's safety and well-being from concerned citizens, teachers, doctors and the police. Of these, 5,728 resulted in investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect, and also served 7,073 families in the Region of Peel. (Peel Children's Aid Annual Report 2009 – 2010)

During the month of October, Peel partners recognize children through the celebration of the Week of the Child. 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.

The OCBCC (Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care) has also requested that October 21, 2010 be a day to celebrate Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day for the many people who are dedicated to providing early learning and child care to the young children in Peel.

In 1993, the Government of Canada enacted Bill C-371, also known as the Child Day Act, and designated November 20th each year as National Child Day. The day celebrates the adoption of the United Nations of two landmark documents concerning the rights of children and youth. On November 20, 2010, Canadian children will be honoured and the rights and responsibilities of children will be protected in the two documents: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1959, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1989.

Outlined in these documents are the responsibilities of the child, governments, families, and caregivers to support and promote the fundamental rights of all children and youth, including: rights to the provision of a supportive family; adequate food; clothing; housing; education; and protection from all forms of harm.

2. Actions in Support of Events

To support these events, the Region of Peel has endorsed the following activities, including, but not limited to:

a) Child Abuse Prevention Month (October 2010)

October 2010 is Child Abuse Prevention month in Ontario. Each year Peel Children's Aid joins Children's Aid Societies across the province in educating the public and building awareness of the problem of child abuse in our community through the Child Abuse Prevention campaign. Community leaders, organizations, school and the public are asked to help prevent child abuse and wear the *purple ribbon, wristband or button, the symbol behind the campaign* to demonstrate support to end child abuse in our community.

b) Week of the Child (October 17 to 25, 2010)

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 several 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, Peel Family Shelter, Armagh House, and the William Osler Centre's Child Life Worker Program.

Each year, the Human Services Department recognizes the Week of the Child through various planned children's events, including activities at the Regional Learn.Play.Care. Centres, and in turn, encouraging family and staff engagement.

c) Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day (October 21, 2010)

The Human Services Department recognizes each staff member for their dedication and commitment to children on an annual basis. The Region of Peel shares common objectives with the OCBCC who believes in investing in early childhood educators and caregivers through ongoing professional development; assessing needs of children and providing supports to meet those needs; informing parents and families about the services available in the Region of Peel; educating parents and families about the importance of early learning and child care; and supporting collaboration within the community.

d) National Child Day (November 20, 2010)

The Region of Peel offers a variety of supports and services to families and children. Many of these services uphold the rights of the children, including:

i) Peel Charter of Rights

Endorsed by Regional council on May 27, 2007, the Charter helps to raise awareness in the community of the need to support the rights and views of children and to educate children about their rights and responsibilities.

ii) Strategic Management of Current Issues

The Region of Peel actively examines the issues facing children and youth, and works collaboratively with stakeholders to address these issues. For example, the Region of Peel has recently opened an inclusive nursery school for children zero to 6 years of age, which collaborates with community service providers to support special needs inclusion. The Region of Peel has also collaborated with Success by Six, and the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network and more recently the Peel Children and Youth Initiative which will ensure continued aligned and integrated service and use of resources. It is anticipated that the Peel Children and Youth Initiative will be able to leverage funding opportunities for additional and/or streamlined services which will enhance the range and depth of services available to Peel children and youth.

iii) Region of Peel Programs

Human Services operates 12 Learn.Play.Care Centres, providing inclusive early learning and child care through 850 licensed child care spaces. Family literacy programs engage the community at over 97 school and community sites to inform about the benefits of early learning experiences. The Families First program provides a holistic approach to supports for sole support parents and their children. This Ontario Works program is delivered in partnership with Public Health. The Neighbourhood Capacity Building Strategy coordinates programs that help people participate in community programs – further engaging families and increasing capacity. The elimination of the Parental Co-Payment Fee for families receiving child care subsidy increases early learning and childcare opportunities while reducing the financial burden on families.

Health Services through the Family Health Division provides supports to families through key three programs i) Reproductive Health and ii) Child Health which focus on health promotion and education including preconception and prenatal care for healthy pregnancies, breastfeeding and parenting initiatives and iii) Healthy Babies Healthy Children, which provides telephone and in-home services to support healthy child and family development.

As part of Health Services, Public Health has identified within its ten year strategic plan, "Nurturing the Next Generation" as a priority initiative. The goal of this priority is to determine, through the review and examination of current evidence/research, the most effective Public Health strategies that will optimize early child development for Peel families.

August 19, 2010
PROCLAMATION OF EVENTS

CONCLUSION

Participating in events which honour and support children and youth and the people who provide services and the integration of services, in support of children and youth, builds awareness and understanding about our collective roles and responsibilities. These events strengthen our community and advocate for the needs of children, youth, and families.

In support of this, Regional Council is requested to proclaim the following events in the Region of Peel:

- Child Abuse Prevention Month – October 2010
- Week of the Child – October 17 to 25, 2010
- Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day – October 21, 2010
- National Child Day – November 20, 2010

Please see proclamation details in Appendices I – IV.

Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:

for D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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c. Legislative Services

HS 10-43

APPENDIX I

Proclamation

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

OCTOBER 2010

WHEREAS, the month of October is child Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario and Canada;

AND WHEREAS, public education and prevention are the best ways to end the neglect and abuse of children;

AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel, through its many programs and services, including Children's Services, Ontario Works, Peel Living, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, Child and Reproductive Health Programs, and Peel Regional Police Services and our responsibility to Peel's Children's Charter of Rights demonstrates a commitment to the safety and well-being of all children of the Region of Peel;

AND WHEREAS, the purple ribbon, the symbol of Child Abuse Prevention Month, is a reminder that the problem of child abuse continues and everyone needs to be involved in keeping children safe and healthy;

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the month of October 2010 be proclaimed "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

REGION OF PEEL

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

7.1-f-7

APPENDIX II

Proclamation

WEEK OF THE CHILD – OCTOBER 17 TO 25, 2010

WHEREAS, the Region of Peel, Human Services Department provides 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 Centres 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 Centres 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 6 on May 24, 2007;

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of October 17 to 25, 2010 be proclaimed "WEEK OF THE CHILD" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

REGION OF PEEL

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

7.1F-8

APPENDIX III

Proclamation

CHILD CARE WORKER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY

OCTOBER 21, 2010

WHEREAS, 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 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, and lower staff turnover, all of which predict higher quality child care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that October 21, 2010 be proclaimed the tenth 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.

REGION OF PEEL

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

7.1f-9

APPENDIX IV

Proclamation

NATIONAL CHILD DAY

NOVEMBER 20, 2010

WHEREAS, on November 20, 1959 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed by Resolution 1/86 the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and on November 20, 1989 adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

AND WHEREAS, National Child Day is held November 20th each year as enacted by the Parliament of Canada in 1993 in Bill C-371, otherwise known as The Child Day Act;

AND WHEREAS, Regional Council accepted, endorsed and supported Peel's Children's Charter of Rights, presented by Success By 6 Peel on May 24, 2007, including that November 20th be proclaimed National Child Day in the Region of Peel;

AND WHEREAS, the National Child Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of the basic human rights to which children (under the age of 18) everywhere are entitled; and to celebrate children as actors in their own lives as active citizens who can and should meaningfully contribute to decision-making as we create a Canada fit for children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that November 20, 2010 be proclaimed "NATIONAL CHILD DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair