
DATE: February 11, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY JUSTICE/CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE REQUEST FOR LOAN TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT: UPDATE**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services
Norma Trim, Chief Financial Officer
and Commissioner of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD) request for a line of credit for up to \$500,000, to help fund the development of a multi-service facility, housing the first Family Justice/Child Advocacy Centre in Peel, as per the Human Services Revolving Capital Fund policy, as outlined in the joint report of the Commissioner of Human Services and Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services, dated January 26, 2011, titled "Human Services Revolving Capital Fund (HSRCF)", be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In June 2010, Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD) approached the Region of Peel for funding to support the development of a family justice/child advocacy centre in Peel.
- Council provided a number of recommendations and directed staff to provide a subsequent update report with information on program delivery feasibility and other viable options to be considered by CFSPD. Program delivery information confirms a strong need for an office facility with a Family Justice/Child Advocacy Centre in Peel.
- Based on previous Council discussion, CFSPD has made significant progress in revising plans to make the delivery of this project more realistic, from both a financial and programming perspective.
- The revised plan, with support and approval from the Federal government, includes: moving the location of the proposed project to a more central location in Brampton, making it more accessible to other Peel residents and making use of an existing building, a more affordable option than the original land, design-build plan.
- CFSPD has provided staff with a financing and repayment plan.
- The Region of Peel is therefore asked to support a CFSPD request for a line of credit of up to \$500,000 to help make this centre a reality.

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DISCUSSION

1. Background

On May 8, 2010, the Federal Transport and Infrastructure Minister, John Baird, announced \$5 million in infrastructure funding (i.e., for the construction of a new building) in support of Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD), to start work on a multi-use building at the corner of Bovaird Drive and Chinguacousy Road in Brampton. The provincial government has already committed \$1 million to this project.

a) The Family Justice/Child Advocacy Centre Model

The new facility would be home to a variety of public and non-profit agencies and would house Peel Region's first Family Justice and Child Advocacy Centre. The planning for this new facility is a project that has been thoroughly researched by Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin, along with fourteen community partners who served on the planning committee. It is a model that originated in San Diego in 2002, and is now in place in 60 centers across the world. It has also been launched in Kitchener-Waterloo and is also being explored in other Ontario municipalities, including Durham, Brantford, York, and the City of Toronto.

The new facility would not require additional resources to the current system, although the model, if adopted, would make more efficient and effective use of existing resources.

More information on this model is attached as Appendix I.

b) Original Proposal for a Family Justice/Child Advocacy Centre

The federal and provincial funding for this project does not include the purchase of the land; therefore, CFSPD originally requested that the Region of Peel provide loan funding of \$2 million to assist with the land purchase (to be repaid through a capital fundraising campaign) to enable the project to proceed. The estimated overall project costs were determined to be \$10.6 million, including the cost of construction finance and real estate fees.

c) Partnering Process and Agency Request Based on Original Proposal

The lead agency in this collaborative initiative and the intended owner of the proposed facility, CFSPD, is a counselling agency established in 1981 that provides clinical counselling for domestic violence, depression, anxiety, couple conflict and trauma services. This agency serves everyone regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity economic status, sexual orientation, physical capacity in over 12 languages.

Catholic Family Services had originally planned a fund-raising campaign they estimated would raise \$3 to \$4 million. The federal infrastructure funding cannot be used to purchase the land, which would have cost about \$2.4 million. Catholic Family Services therefore had originally requested that the Region of Peel provide a loan of up to \$2 million to leverage the federal infrastructure funding (which must be matched 50:50).

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2. Overview of Program Delivery Issues and Community Services in Peel

a) Program Delivery

Family violence is a societal issue in which the Health and Human Services departments, Peel Regional Police and Caledon OPP partner with many community agencies to try to address the issue.

According to the Ontario Women's Directorate and a Statistics Canada report, "Measuring Violence Against Women (2006)", only a small percentage of these cases are reported, so the numbers represent a fraction of the realities faced by women in our community. In Canada, 51 per cent of women have experienced at least one incidence of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16. Statistics are not available for the Region of Peel, however, Peel Regional Police information shows that domestic violence disputes have increased by 35 per cent from 2003 to 2007, and the number of sexual assaults has increased by 18 per cent from 2003 to 2007.

Although the socio-economic dynamics of family violence and child abuse are complex, low income and lone-parent households are seen as ones at greater risk of experiencing these issues. Family violence also has a profound impact on children. Children who are exposed to violence in the home suffer from emotional trauma, have poor educational outcomes and are at risk of being victimized or using violence themselves to solve issues.

b) Availability and Accessibility of Regional and Community Services in Peel

The Region's citizen-focused approach to service delivery is based on evidence which indicates that individuals and families need to feel empowered by programs intended to assist them. The Region is therefore active in its commitment to provide accessible services for women whose personal or family's safety is at risk. Specific services and programs include: second-stage housing (e.g., Armagh House); transitional and housing support programs; emergency shelters; transitional housing (e.g., Angela's Place); Peel's Outreach Program; Eviction Prevention Programs; and Families First.

As well, Human Services and Health Services, Peel Regional Police and Caledon OPP are working in partnership with the Peel Committee Against Women (PCAWA), which is a collaborative of over 35 organizations including departments with the Region. The Region of Peel also works with the Peel Committee on Sexual Assault (PCSA), a program at Trillium Health Centre under Women's and Children's Health where a group of service providers work together to offer a comprehensive and effective community response to end sexual violence.

Notwithstanding these services, many of these supports are not readily available to Peel residents. In addition to a lack of available services, a "Final Needs Assessment Report" released in April 2010, commissioned by the Family Justice/Child Advocacy Centre Planning Committee, confirms people's difficulty in navigating the current social system (to access supports for domestic violence and child abuse). These issues include not knowing where to go for services, poor access to services based on having to go from one agency to another, and a lack of personal transportation options.

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It is expected that the Multi-Service/Family Justice/Child Advocacy Model, in bringing together various sectors to provide a coordinated response to violence and child abuse, will help address these accessibility issues.

3. Update from CFSPD: Revised Plan

On June 24, 2010, in response to the original project proposal, Regional Council requested an updated report which includes information on program delivery feasibility regarding the proposed location and a review of CFSPD's financial solvency. CFSPD was also provided with a number of suggestions by Councillors during the discussion.

In response to the request, CFSPD has made significant progress in revising plans to make the delivery of this project more realistic, from both a financial and programming perspective.

a) Location, Building Purchase, and Construction Costs

CFSPD has changed the location of the Multi-Service/Family Justice/Child Advocacy Centre to be more central to the Region, while still being in Brampton. It has placed an offer on an existing building that has more square footage (38,822 square feet on two floors) and basement (11,000 square feet) for less money than what was required by the original land-design build consisting of a 30,000 square feet, two-storey plan.

The building purchase is expected to close by February 23, 2011, for a total cost of \$6.1 million, including purchase of building, land and renovations. This new site will only require renovations, with expected construction start and completion dates of March 2011 and August 2011, respectively. The Federal Government has approved of CFSPD's revised submission, including extending the deadline for project completion to October 31, 2011.

b) Project Financing

The Federal grant of \$1.3 million will cover 50 per cent of the renovation costs of the building. In addition, a grant of \$1.0 million was received from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).

CFSPD's Capital Campaign has a goal to raise pledges of \$3.6 million and total donations of \$846,000 are expected by March 31, 2012. They have engaged a fundraising firm that specializes in this area. CFSPD has letters of intent to rent between 70-83 per cent of the facility, leaving between 17-30 per cent vacant. The agency is involved in ongoing discussions with other potential partners interested in shared occupancy in the multi-service centre.

Funding Source	Total Amount of Funding (in millions)
Federal funding	\$1.3
Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)	\$1.0
Financing (mortgage)	\$2.6
Capital Campaign	\$1.2
Total	\$6.1

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The following organizations have written letters of intent to sharing space in this centre:

- Birthright;
- Brampton Multicultural Community Centre;
- Catholic Cross-cultural Services;
- India Rainbow Community Services of Peel;
- Muslim Community Services;
- Peel Family Education Centre;
- Peel Children's Aid Society;
- Saint Elizabeth Health Care;
- Spectra Community Support Services;
- Trillium Health Centre, Mississauga Site; and
- Victim Services of Peel.

c) CFSPD's Revised Request for Region of Peel Support

To support the capital costs of the project, CFSPD is requesting bridge financing to assist with capital costs of up to \$500,000, which is only 8 per cent of the total capital cost of \$6.1 million, to be repaid over a three-year period.

4. Regional Analysis of CFSPD's Financial Proposal

CFSPD has been providing services for over 30 years to over 24,000 clients annually. Their revenues exceed \$3.0 million, and over 50 per cent of their funding is provided from four Provincial Ministries. In addition, the Region of Peel and United Way of Peel provided \$0.5 million in 2010.

Based on analysis of the financial information provided by CFSPD, this agency's revised plan has provided a project financing and secured community agency partners in this endeavour.

CFSPD has received letters of intent to rent from partner agencies. In total, the commitment equals 83 per cent of the available space. CFSPD continues to seek additional partnering opportunities.

The ability of CFSPD to meet its repayment schedule hinges on the success in meeting the capital fundraising goal of \$1.2 million.

This request complies with the proposed policy for a Human Services Revolving Capital Fund.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

CFSPD is requesting bridge financing to assist with capital costs of up to \$500,000, subject to Council approval of the Human Services Revolving Capital Fund. Funds are available with repayments as follows:

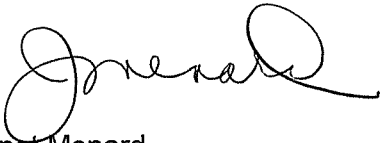
- 2012 - \$150,000
- 2013 - \$350,000

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CONCLUSION

With support from the Region of Peel, it is expected the Multi-Service/Family Justice/Child Advocacy Centre will bring together various sectors to provide a coordinated response to violence and child abuse that will help address accessibility issues that affect too many members of our community.



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services



Norma Trim
Chief Financial Officer
and Commissioner of Corporate Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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APPENDIX I

**FAMILY JUSTICE CENTRE (FJC)
AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE (CAC) MODELS**

Purpose

The purpose of these centres is to provide a coordinated response to victims of child abuse and woman abuse where services can all be found under one roof.

History of Models

Child Advocacy Centre's have been in existence since 1985 and originated in Huntsville Alabama. There are currently 900 Child Advocacy Centre's across the U.S.A. The focus of Child Advocacy Centre is a coordinated response to the issue of child abuse.

Family Justice Centres have been existence since 2002 and originated in San Diego California. There are currently over 60 Family Justice Centres globally. Currently in Canada there are about eight developing and operating sites: Richmond BC, Calgary, Edmonton, Kingston ON, Durham, Toronto, Brantford and Kitchener (operational since 2006).

History of Development in Peel

- In 2007, 12 organizations in Peel attended Kitchener/Waterloo Family Justice Centre
- In 2008, 12 organizations formed a planning committee to look at Family Justice Centres and Child Advocacy Centre models and the possible integration of these models into Peel. These organizations are as follows:
 - Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin
 - Catholic Cross-cultural Services
 - Crown Attorney Office
 - Family Education Centre
 - Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse
 - Peel Children's Aid Society
 - Peel Committee on Sexual Assault
 - Peel Regional Police
 - Salvation Army Family
 - Life Resource Centre
 - Trillium Hospital Sexual Assault Care and Resource Centre
 - Victim Services of Peel
 - Victim Witness Assistance Program
- In 2008, Ontario Trillium Foundation provided a grant to conduct needs assessment and research into the two service delivery models.
- In 2010, Planning Committee membership grew to 15 organizations.

Needs Assessment Findings

51 Consumers of Service were consulted:

- **50%** of the focus was held at ethno specific grassroots agencies in Peel, conducted in English, Hindi and Punjabi;
- **46%** indicated that they spoke another language other than English;
- **28%** identified themselves as newcomers to Canada and being here less than 5 years.

179 Service Providers were consulted.

29 Community Members were consulted.

APPENDIX I

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Top Challenges Identified in accessing services in Peel

- transportation
- access to childcare
- navigating social service sector
- access to legal information

Summary of responses to co-located model

- reduce families need to navigate social service system
- increase accessibility for families
- coordination of services
- collaboration and cross fertilization between organizations/sectors.

Next Steps

Work with planning committee to identify processes, referral systems with on site and off site partners about a made in Peel model.