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DATE: February 28, 2012

REPORT TITLE: **THE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE IN PEEL TASK FORCE**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Terms of Reference for the proposed Early Learning and Child Care in Peel Council Task Force, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Task Force’, as outlined in Appendix I to the report of the Commissioner of Human Services, dated February 28, 2012, titled “The Early Learning and Child Care in Peel Task Force”, be approved;**

**And further, that those Members of Council seeking appointment to the Task Force, be appointed by Regional Council at its March 8, 2012 meeting.**

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Council has by resolution agreed to establish an Early Learning and Child Care in Peel Task Force to explore options for the role of the Region of Peel in the provision of child care and early learning, given the changing landscape, resulting from full-day kindergarten in Peel
- The Task Force will meet twice a month between April and September 2012, and may tour various child care sites in the Region.
- The Task Force will report back to Council in September 2012 with recommendations.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Background**

On January 26, 2012, Council considered a staff report entitled “Proposal to Redirect Current Child Care Funding to Increase Service and Meet the Needs of a Changing Early Learning and Child Care System”. This report highlighted that the impacts from the current transformation of the early learning and child care system in Ontario, combined with increasing financial pressures and growing unmet service system needs, require that the Region of Peel review its role to ensure the viability and ongoing sustainability of the early learning and child care system in Peel. On that date, Regional Council agreed to pursue further consultation on the recommendations contained within the report, through a Council Task Force. As such, Resolutions 2012-112 and 2012-113 established that a Task Force of Council be established.

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**2. Task Force**

**a) Mandate**

As set out in Resolutions 2012-112 and 2012-113, the Task Force will conduct consultation sessions with staff, other stakeholders, the public and parents affected by the changes to the early learning system in Peel.

And the Task Force will explore options in detail, including but not limited to:

- a) Looking at leasing our centres to an external operator and remain as landlord and system manager
- b) that centres refocus to serve more special needs children and low-income families and after care centres
- c) other cost-saving measures such as fee increases, salary adjustments, etc.,
- d) the possible phased-in closure

And that the Task Force report back to Regional Council with recommendations in September 2012.

The draft Terms of Reference are detailed in Appendix I. To support the work of the Task Force, information will be provided as it relates to concerns raised at the Regional Council meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Detailed information will be provided to the Task Force on a range of topics including system capacity and stability, lack of subsidy/growing waitlist, mandatory roles and responsibilities, quality, special needs, current funding, costs for service delivery and other areas or relevant topics suggested by the Task Force.

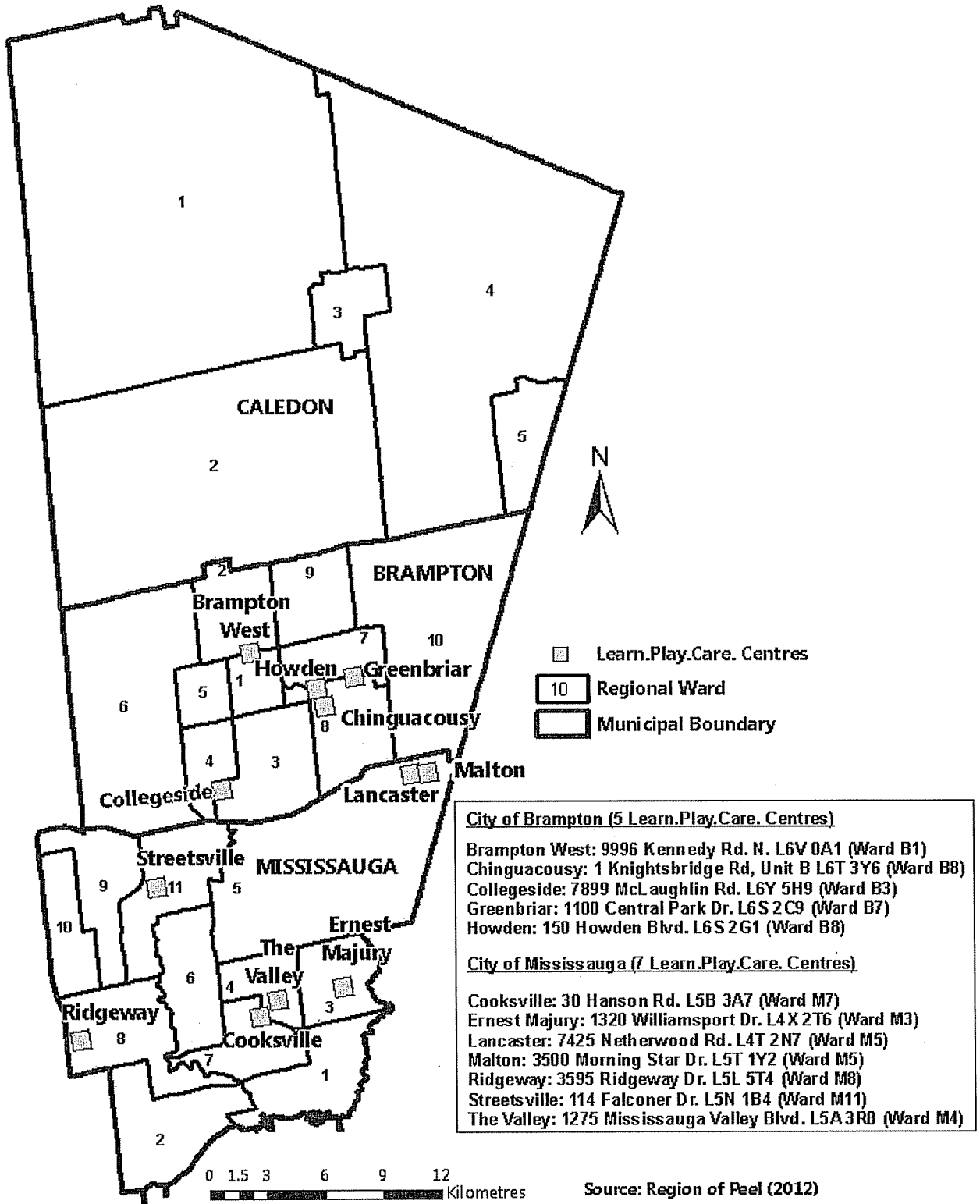
**b) Membership, Meeting Structure and Schedule**

The Task Force will be comprised of members of Peel Regional Council. For reference purposes, a map indicating the location of each Learn, Play, Care (LPC) Centre by ward is included in Figure 1.

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Figure 1: Learn.Play.Care. Centres in Peel March 2012



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The Chair and Vice-Chair will be determined at the first meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force will meet twice monthly, at a minimum, between April 2012 and August 2012, to ensure the full scope of work is completed in time to deliver a report to Council in late September. A suggested schedule of meetings and topics is reflected in Appendix II. A tour of various child care facilities in Peel may be scheduled as part of the Task Force meetings.

**c) Process****i) Task Force Meetings**

The Task Force meetings will provide an opportunity to review, in more detail, information related to the changing landscape affecting early learning and child care in Peel – at this time and over the next two years – as full-day kindergarten is implemented. Material and data for these meetings will be provided by staff in the Human Services department. Formal minutes will be provided for information in subsequent Council meeting packages. The structure of the meetings and all procedural issues will be addressed at the first meeting of the Task Force. Discussion guides and a resource binder will be provided to each member of the task force. A decision tree will be used at task force meetings to ensure that decisions are made along the way that will help the task force make final recommendations to Council in September.

**ii) Consultation Process**

The Task Force will invite participation through meetings and written submissions. The Task Force will determine who will be invited to Task Force meetings to offer expertise and perspectives on the discussion items. This will be coordinated through the Human Services Department. Discussion items are described in further detail in Appendix III. In addition, an electronic mailbox will be set up so that interested parties can provide written submissions to the Task Force. This will be accessible at [taskforce@peelregion.ca](mailto:taskforce@peelregion.ca). All submissions will be printed and provided to Task Force members prior to each meeting. These submissions will also be provided to all members of Council in Council agenda packages. The input from invited speakers and written submissions will inform the recommendation to Regional Council in September 2012.

**d) Deliverables****i) Recommendations**

Upon consideration of the information provided to the Task Force, including the consultations, the Task Force will provide recommendations on the role the Region should play in early learning and child care. This will be the result of a comprehensive review of information related to the current system in Peel, the changes affecting the system and the implications of full-day kindergarten. These recommendations will be contained in a report to Council on September 27, 2012. It is expected that these recommendations will allow Council to make a decision on the role of the Region in the provision of early learning and child care services in Peel.

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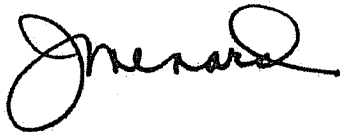
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**3. Logistical Support**

To ensure the Task Force is well informed and able to conduct all research and consultation sessions successfully, support will be provided by staff from the Office of the Regional Clerk and the Human Services department, as needed. This will include logistics for reserving meetings and distributing agendas, minutes and materials for discussion.

**CONCLUSION**

The creation of a Council Task Force to make recommendations on the role of the Region in the provision of early learning and child care will involve several meetings, consultation and a possible tour of some of the child care facilities in Peel. This process will provide an opportunity for Council representatives to gain a better understanding of the issues and changes the system is currently experiencing and exploration of the options for early learning and child care in Peel.



Janet Menard  
Commissioner of Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Lisa Duarte at extension 4862 or via email at [lisa.duarte@peelregion.ca](mailto:lisa.duarte@peelregion.ca)*

c. Legislative Services

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**APPENDIX I**

**Draft Terms of Reference  
Early Learning and Child Care in Peel Council Task Force**

**Name:**

The **Early Learning and Child Care in Peel Council Task Force** shall be referred to herein as the "Task Force".

**Mandate:**

The Task Force's mandate is as follows:

- To explore options for the role of the Region of Peel in the delivery of child care and early learning in detail, including but not limited to:
  - a) opportunities for leasing Peel's existing centres to an external operator and remain as landlord and system manager
  - b) the refocusing of Peel's centres to serve more special needs children and low-income families and evening care centres
  - c) cost-saving measures such as fee increases, salary adjustments, to reduce operating costs
  - d) the possible phased-in closure of the centres operated by Peel
- To invite the public, including stakeholders, child care service providers, child care resources groups, school boards, Provincial officials, staff and parents affected by the proposed changes to the early learning system in Peel, to consult on the Region's role in early learning and child care; and
- To develop and make recommendations to Regional Council on the Region of Peel's role in child care and early learning for presentation to Regional Council in September 2012.

**Membership:**

The Task Force will be comprised of members of Regional Council.

**Chair and Vice Chair:**

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Task Force will be elected at the first meeting of the Task Force.

**Quorum:**

Quorum will consist of a majority of the total number of Task Force members.

**Reporting Function:**

The minutes of each Task Force meeting will be placed on the next available Regional Council Agenda for receipt.

**Meeting Frequency:**

The Task Force will meet twice monthly (at a minimum) between March 2012 and August 2012, in the schedule attached in Appendix II. The Task Force may choose to meet at other times to accommodate presentations from invited stakeholders. The Task Force may wish to tour relevant sites in Peel as part of its investigation. Meetings will be held at 10 Peel Centre Drive, in Council Chambers.

**Meeting Structure:**

The Task Force meeting structure will be determined at the first meeting.

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**In Camera:**

The Task Force reserves the right to go In Camera for matters that meet the requirements of an in camera discussion.

**Consultations:**

Consultations will take the form of written submissions and presentations at Task Force meetings. Written submissions must include the sender's name, address and telephone number, and be submitted to [taskforce@peel.ca](mailto:taskforce@peel.ca) for consideration by the Task Force. A resulting recommendation will be considered by Regional Council.

**Staff Resources:**

The Task Force will be supported by staff from the Office of the Regional Clerk, as well as the Communications and Human Services departments.

**APPENDIX II**

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**APPENDIX II**

**Proposed Schedule of ELCC Task Force Meetings**

All meetings to occur at 10 Peel Centre Drive, Council Chambers, unless otherwise indicated.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Suggested Speakers to be Invited</b>
1	Thursday April 5, 2012 (immediately following WMC)	3:30 – 6 p.m.	<p>Task Force Logistics</p> <p>Full-Day Kindergarten and Extended Day program components</p> <p>Importance of early learning and supports for children and families</p>	<p>Director, Strategic Planning, Policy &amp; Partnerships</p> <p>Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education</p> <p>Regional Director, Ministry of Children and Youth Services</p> <p>Director of Education, Peel District School Board</p> <p>Director of Education, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board</p> <p>Executive Director, Conseil Scolaire Viamonde</p> <p>Education Director, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud</p> <p>Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at McMaster University</p>
2	Thursday April 19, 2012	1:30 – 4 p.m.	<p>Regional Role</p> <p>Current and future system challenges</p> <p>Subsidy and wait list demands</p>	<p>Director, Service System Management</p> <p>Director, Client Relationships</p> <p>Executive Director, Peel Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI)</p> <p>Subsidy Wait List Parents</p>
3	Thursday May 3, 2012 (immediately following WMC)	3:30 – 6 p.m.	<p>Early learning and child care research and best practices</p>	<p>Manager, Children's Services Operations</p> <p>Executive Director, Childcare Resource Research Unit</p> <p>Director, Institute of Child Study (OISE), University of Toronto</p> <p>Senior Trainer, Highscope Research Foundation</p> <p>Executive Director, Atkinson Foundation</p> <p>Coordinator, Early Childhood</p>



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				<p>Education Program, Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Sheridan College)</p> <p>Program Director, Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies, Charles Sturt University</p>
4	Thursday May 17, 2012	1:30 – 4 p.m.	<p>Early learning and child care resource supports and services for children with special needs</p> <p>*will include coverage of resolution item b)</p>	<p>Director, Children’s Services Operations</p> <p>Manager, Clinical Services at Peel Children’s Centre</p> <p>Associate Professor, Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition, University of Guelph</p> <p>Co-Chair and Representative of Peel Early Learning Special Needs Resource Agencies (PELSNA)</p> <p>Parents of children receiving and waiting for special needs supports and services</p>
5	Thursday May 31, 2012	1:30- 4 p.m.	<p>Early learning and child care service providers</p> <p>Determinants of Quality</p> <p>System transformation needs and supports</p> <p>*will include coverage of resolution item a)</p>	<p>Director, Service System Management</p> <p>Executive Director, Family Day Care Services</p> <p>CEO, PLASP</p> <p>Executive Director, YMCA</p> <p>Directors/Owners/Operators, independent or stand alone child care programs</p> <p>Representative, Licensed Home Child Care Network of Peel Region</p> <p>Chair, CDRCP Committee</p>
<p>Confirm date for Early Learning and Child Care Site Tour</p>				
6	Thursday June 7, 2012 (immediately following WMC)	3:30 - 6 p.m.	Quality Assurance	<p>Director, Service System Management</p> <p>Directors, Early Learning and Child Care Centre based programs</p> <p>Directors/Owners/Operators, independent or stand alone child care programs</p> <p>President, College of Early Childhood Educators</p>

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			Raising the Bar	Executive Director, Practice and Programs, Child Development Resource Connection Peel  Participant, Raising the Bar
7	Thursday June 21, 2012	6:30 – 9pm	Parent Needs	Director, Children’s Services Operations  Director, Client Relationships  Parents receiving early learning and child care supports and services  Learn.Play.Care. Centres Parent Council
8	Thursday July 12, 2012 (immediately following WMC)	3:30- 6 p.m.	Advocacy	Manager, Office of Strategic Innovation & Policy  Co-Chairs, Fair Share for Peel Task Force  Co-Chairs, Quality Early Learning Network  Coordinator, Ontario Coalition for Better Child care  Co-Presidents, Association of Day Care Operators  President, Home Child Care Association of Ontario
9	Thursday July 26, 2012	1:30 – 4 p.m.	System Funding and Exploring Service Delivery Options <small>*will include coverage of resolution items b), c) and d)</small>	Manager, Financial Support Unit  Commissioner, Human Services
10	Thursday August 2, 2012	1:30 – 4 p.m.	Recap of Decision Making Trees	Commissioner, Human Services
11	Thursday August 16, 2012	1:30 – 4 p.m.	Report Review	Commissioner, Human Services

\* The Task Force will be provided with written submissions at each meeting

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APPENDIX III

Proposed Discussion Detail of ELCC Task Force Meetings

Dates	Discussion Item
Thursday April 5, 2012	<b>Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) &amp; Extended Day Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brain research</li> <li>• Benefits of early learning to children</li> <li>• FDK staffing model and Early Childhood Educators</li> <li>• Provincial legislation</li> <li>• System transformation</li> </ul>
Thursday April 19, 2012	<b>Regional Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandated and enhanced role</li> <li>• System capacity and vacancies</li> </ul> <b>Current and future system challenges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families' needs</li> <li>• Lack of subsidy</li> <li>• Wait list demands</li> </ul>
Thursday May 3, 2012	<b>Early Learning and Child Care Research and Best Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term impacts of quality early learning</li> <li>• Early Childhood Education programs – Colleges and Universities</li> </ul>
Thursday May 17, 2012	<b>Early learning and child care resource supports and services for children with special needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges families experience accessing supports and service</li> <li>• Barriers to inclusion</li> <li>• Resource needs</li> <li>• System capacity</li> <li>• Wait list demands</li> </ul>
Thursday May 31, 2012	<b>Determinants of Quality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program indicators</li> <li>• Effects of quality practices</li> </ul> <b>System Transformation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformation and viability of the child care system</li> <li>• Foundational requirements</li> <li>• Stabilization and equalization funding</li> <li>• Human Resources planning and funding</li> </ul>
Date to be determined	<b>Tour of Early Learning and Child Care Sites</b>
Thursday June 7, 2012	<b>Quality Assurance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service System Manager's Role in quality Early Learning and Child Care</li> <li>• Quality initiatives in the community</li> </ul>
Thursday June 21, 2012	<b>Parent Needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Care Choices</li> <li>• Experiences with Early Learning and Child Care services</li> <li>• Important program qualities to families</li> </ul>
Thursday July 12, 2012	<b>Advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System stabilization</li> <li>• Policy framework</li> <li>• Multi-year planning</li> <li>• Funding mechanisms</li> <li>• System modernization</li> </ul>

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Thursday July 26, 2012	System Funding and Exploring Service Delivery Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current funding</li><li>• System pressures</li><li>• Regional role in the child care and early learning system</li></ul>
Thursday August 2, 2012	Decision Making Trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decision matrix review</li></ul>
Thursday August 16, 2012	Report Review

\* For each of the meetings there will be a discussion guide and a decision matrix provided