



Infant and Child Development Services Peel  
6660 Kennedy Road, Suite 200  
Mississauga, ON  
L5T 2M9

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

20/2/2012

Chair Emil Kolb  
Regional Council  
Regional Municipality of Peel

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Council
Public Works	
Employee and Business Services <i>April 12/12 R.C.</i>	
Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/> File
Human Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Peel Living	

**Regarding the LION Service for Families**

It was with great consternation that Infant & Child Development Services Peel learned that the funding for the LION's was going to be discontinued in 2012. We are a program that provides service to children with special needs under 6 years, and their families throughout the Region of Peel.

Peel is very fast growing, particularly in northwest and northeast Brampton, where there is almost no infrastructure. This is an area that houses many new arrivals to Peel, including relatively recent immigrants to our country. They have extensive needs for exposure to the Canadian norms of life, and need to access early year's services with their children for many reasons. First and foremost, services for children under 6 years and their families need to connect with each other. Childrearing is a difficult business when one is isolated in a new neighbourhood that lacks services. It is through services such as the LION that new neighbours with young children learn about what it means to parent with supports from informal and formal services, specifically within a high growth new area.

The problem with areas with very little infrastructure is that families are isolated, have nowhere to gather, to support each other in parenting, and need facilitated support such as is available in the LIONs. For people with children with special needs, the stresses are even higher. Through the LION programs, children with special needs are identified, connected with service, and supported through the early time of learning about their children's special needs.

**The Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre**

The Credit Valley Hospital • 2200 Eglinton Avenue West • Mississauga, ON • L5M 2N1  
Trillium Health Centre - Mississauga • 100 Queensway West • Mississauga, ON • L5B 1B8  
Trillium Health Centre - West Toronto • 150 Sherway Drive • Toronto, ON • M9C 1A5

HS-B3-2

The LION service was developed to serve this population of young families in this much-underserved area. We ask you to consider the report to Council that requests funding from July 1 to December 31, which would allow the LIONs to continue to operate while seeking alternate funding for this valuable service for families.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lorna Montgomery".

Lorna Montgomery, Manager  
Infant & Child Development Services Peel, and Service Resolution Peel