

Background Notes for Peel Deputations
January 26, 2012 - 9:30 a.m.
10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, ON
“Suite A” – old brick building, 5th Floor
(North East corner of Bramalea City Centre Mall at
Central Park Drive and Queen St East in Brampton)

Be there at 9 a.m. for a short rally, the item is first on the agenda.

HOW TO SIGN-UP TO FOR A DEPUTATION:

- Apply to speak to the Regional Council at the meeting on Thursday January 26, 9:30 a.m.

You must apply in writing, fill out the form at:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/council/request-for-delegation-2011-09-21.pdf>

- Please apply as soon as possible – deadline to register to speak is noon on Wednesday January 25

Notes on doing a deputation:

1. Write out what you want to say. You have 5 minutes.
2. Make your deputation as personal as possible. Explain how the proposed cuts or changes will affect you, your family and your community.
3. If you are a user of a child care service, tell councilors what a difference child care makes to your life. Tell them how your family and the community would suffer if you did not have child care.
4. Deputations that use statistics to help make a point are good, but prepared to back up the statistic if asked by a councillor.
5. Practice saying it out loud before hand – *be sure to be under the time limit!*
6. Anticipate some questions you may be asked and prepare answers.

- Tell a personal story. Make sure to introduce yourself. If you live in Peel, say that.
- **I want to you vote NO to closing the child care centres**
- **At minimum, I want to you defer this item to a future meeting.**

Some of the things you might want to think about:

- Did you have a hard time finding child care?
- How would closing the municipal centre affect your family?
- What would you do if you could not find child care?
- How will closing 12 child care centres affect the community?
- Why does the Region want to make this decision so quickly?
- Why don't they want to consult with families who use the centres?

What we should say:

- We have long memories – any councillor that votes to close the child care centres will not have our vote.
- Peel needs more child care, not less child care.
- Closing child care centres targets the most vulnerable – children. Peel centres provide parenting support and help support vulnerable children and families.
- Peel centres also have extensive programs for special needs children, what will happen to them?
- Peel is one of the fastest growing areas of the province. Families need two incomes for a decent standard of living. Peel Region has a low % of kids 0-5 for whom there's a space – as low as 13%, whereas the comparable figure for Ontario 19.7%. Therefore the 859 spaces in the municipal centres are even more valuable
- The 12 municipal centres provide an important choice for parents. They have professional, long time staff, great facilities, serve food made on site.
- We need more money from the Provincial government to fund child care.
- It is the wrong for the municipality to close their excellent centres.
- Peel Region did not consult with parents who are most affected – those in municipal child care centres.
- Peel Region needs to consult with parents on the impacts of closing centres before they make a huge decision like this.

Why does Peel want to close the 12 municipal child care centres?

Child Care is in Crisis – not only in Peel but around the Province

- Child care is desperately underfunded – all across Ontario. That's why parent fees are so high and staff wages are low.
- The Region of Peel will argue that that the only way to help child care programs is to close their municipal child care centres and direct money to other child care centres.
- They will also argue that with full-day kindergarten, the region does not need as much child care. This is wrong! Peel region needs more child care, not less.

Waiting Lists for Child Care Subsidy

- There are over 3,100 children on the child care subsidy waiting list.
- The wait list increases by about 230 children each month.

Poverty in Peel

- According to the United Way, 20% of children aged 0-5 are part of low income families.
- Mississauga has the highest number of families with children aged 0-6 living below low-income cutoff

Basic Statistics on Child Care in Peel

- There are 107,320 children aged 0-6 in Peel. Only 13,952 have access to a licensed child care space
- Total of 440 licensed child care centers with 21,531 child care spaces
- 12 Peel municipal centres have 859 spaces for children

For-Profit Child Care Growing in Peel

- Closing 12 centres creates a void in Peel's child care in the order of 850+ spaces.
- A for-profit child care company, Edleun, just bought 3 Child Care Centres in Mississauga.
- For-profit child care will see the closure of Peel's 12 municipal centres as an opportunity to expand.
- But their focus is on profit – making. Edleun pockets \$290 dollars out of every \$1000 it takes in. Profit is money that is not spent on children.
- We should be working together to secure appropriate funding from the Province so our Municipal Child Care Centres can continue to provide the public service that is so important to our families, our children and our community.

What Peel does well

- Peel Region is a leader in providing child care services to one of the most diverse regions in Ontario.
- Creating & delivering services to high-risk neighborhoods, like Neighborhoods Capacity Support Strategy (NCSS) and Knightsbridge/Kings Cross (Brampton)
- Peel leads early years services planning through a partnership of over 40 agencies which helps oversee the planning and implementation of ELPs designed to allow children from ages 0-6 reach fullest potential
- Increased quality of early learning and CC by investing in ECE wages to attract & retain staff

The region has put a lot of thought, money and creativity into creating a diversity of centres and programs to meet the needs of families. **Examples of this include:**

- after hours child care care at Chinguacousy
- integration of splash pads, a library and even a full size gym at one of the facilities
- Region of Peel has one of the first best start programs at the Lancaster facility
- Lancaster also has a before and after school program in addition to children in child care. Child care for children from 6-12 is in high demand.

- The municipal centres have specially trained staff and use a “Highscope” curriculum.
- The Region of Peel has children’s services workers on site. They provide a wide range of family services including housing referrals not just for children in the region of Peel. Parents from any centre in Peel can get support and hand in documents for subsidy eligibility without having to go to the municipal headquarters.
- The region of Peel has outstanding facilities for child care centre. As regional taxpayers and through the Province, we have spent millions of dollars to build these purpose built centres.
- The most important asset of any child care centre is the staff. To date, the Region of Peel has been a leader in our community in terms of quality child care and decent treatment of staff.

Regional Councillors with Municipal child care in the wards:

Sandra Hames: Ward 7&8

- Howden Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre
- GreenBriar Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre
- Chinguacousy Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre

Paul Palleschi: Ward 2&6

- *Brampton West Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre*

John Sanderson: Ward 3&4

- *Collegeside Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre (Sheridan college campus)*

George Carlson: Ward 11

- *Streestville Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre*
- In the summer, children enjoy cooling down in the Centre's new splash pad and water park. What will happen to these newly build areas?

Bonnie Crombie: Ward 5

- *Malton, Lancaster Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre*
- Lancaster Learn.Play.Care. centre offers the first Region of Peel's first [Best Start](#) program, which integrates child care, education, public health and parenting support, as well as a before and after school program.

Chris Fonseca: Ward 3

- *Ernest Majury Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre*

Frank Dale: Ward 4 :

- *The Valley Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre*

Katie Mahoney: Ward 8

- *Ridgeway Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre*

Nando Iannicca: Ward 7

- *Cooksville Learn. Play. Care Child Care Centre*
104 children. Cooksville is the largest child care centre. Located in an apartment complex, it serves residents of the attached building and the wider community.