

Our File/N/Réf.

Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 26 September 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Acting Commissioner, Social Services Department

SUBJECT/OBJECT **CHILD CARE CAPITAL PROJECTS**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Community Services Committee recommend Council:

1. **Approve the transfer of \$132,400 from the child care contingency fund to the child care capital reserve fund;**
2. **Approve a maximum expenditure of \$332,400 from the child care capital reserve fund in 2000 to provide the following capital grants to child care programs:**

Le centre parascolaire Parasol	\$ 82,400
Centre parascolaire la Clémentine	\$250,000
3. **Approve an expenditure of \$300,000 from the child care regional development charge capital fund to include a child care program in a new Ottawa-Carleton District School Board school in Barrhaven.**

PURPOSE

This report provides an update on the status of the child care capital projects approved in 1999 and those approved to date in 2000. The report also recommends further allocations in 2000 to meet time sensitive community requirements for child care capital funding. All the recommended allocations in this report are from funds levied expressly for the purpose of supporting child care programs in the Region.

BACKGROUND

In 1997 Regional Council adopted a new child care capital funding policy. The policy recognizes the increased system management responsibility of the Region and the withdrawal of all Provincial capital funding, with the exception of health and safety related projects. The Regional policy established three funding streams: health and safety, minor capital and program support, development and expansion.

The new Regional Development Charges (RDC) By-law approved by Council, came into effect August 1, 1999. For the first time, a child care component was included in the RDC calculation to support growth-related capital funding of new child care facilities. To date, approximately \$300,000 has accumulated through the collection of RDC's for child care.

The provincial government's school consolidation policy continues to have implications for child care programs that currently operate in school board facilities. Approximately 44% of the 1999 child care capital grant allocations were for the relocation of child care programs that were required to move because of school closures. Most of these child care programs have been successfully relocated, program one is still in the process of finalizing their plans. While the school consolidation process has had only a minor impact on child care to date in 2000, the OCDSB decisions scheduled for October 2000 are expected to potentially impact on a number of current community programs operating in schools identified for possible closure.

UPDATE ON 1999 CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATIONS

In 1999, Regional Council approved a maximum expenditure of \$2,624,000 from the child care capital reserve fund to provide capital grants to child care programs through its regular allocation process. Programs were grouped together according to their circumstances and a global grant allocation was approved for each group. Staff was given the authority to manage the grant allocations to specific centres within each group. The following were the global budgets approved for 1999:

New school construction	\$ 700,000
Programs moving to different schools	\$ 50,000
Programs in non-operational schools slated for disposal	\$1,099,000
Community Programs	\$ 650,000
Minor capital requirements	\$ 125,000

In many cases, child care programs have identified that they would be required to relocate their centres but did not have detailed financial estimates and no new locations were determined. For this reason the allocations were to be held for up to three years for centres that were required to move and still actively planning to relocate their program. Regional staff would review the programs each year to ensure a need remained for allocations to be held in reserve. Once all projects within a group were completed, or no longer going forward, all unused funds would be returned to the uncommitted balance of the child care capital reserve fund. All projects in three of the five groups in the allocation process have now

been completed, within approved budgets. The two groups with programs that are still actively working on relocation plans are in non-operational schools slated for disposal and community programs.

New School Construction

Three child care programs to be opened in new Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board (OCCSB) schools were each allocated a capital grant of \$150,000 to operate after-school child care programs in Bridlewood, South Nepean, and Stittsville. All three programs opened in the spring and summer of 2000. The Mouvement d'implication francophone d'Orléans (MIFO) was allocated a \$250,000 capital grant to include a child care program in a new Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du centre-est (CECLFCE) school in Chapel Hill in Orleans, which also opened in January of 2000. The \$700,000 in funding to support the creation of child care programs in new schools has been fully allocated within the approved budget.

Programs Moving to Different Schools

As reported to Regional Council in January 2000, Centretown McNabb, Whitehaven School Age, and Quatre Saisons child care programs were all successfully relocated to new schools. Minor capital funds of \$25,000 were used to augment the original budget of \$50,000 established in 1999 for this group, to complete these three relocations.

Programs Existing in Non-Operational Schools Slated for Disposal

Fairview, Youville Centre and Dalhousie Parents were all located in OCCSB schools slated for disposal. Of this group, only Dalhousie Parents has relocated their program and finalized their regional capital grant. The \$1,099,000 assigned for capital grants for these three programs is still required to be held until all the programs within this group finalize their relocation plans. It is anticipated that further regional funds may be required once all three programs have finalized their plans.

Fairview, which currently operates their program in Manor Park has located possible space in an OCCSB in Overbrook. The relocation of this program has been difficult due to a minimal number of options in the area as well as by financial constraints. Regional staff are continuing to work with Fairview to support the relocation of the child care program.

Youville has successfully acquired an old school at 150 Mann Avenue and is proceeding with the detailed planning required to occupy this site. As part of this work, Youville is in the process of finalizing their financial requirements for the project and subsequently their detailed request for a regional capital grant. Youville is also continuing their independent fundraising activities to support their relocation plans.

Dalhousie Parents have relocated their program to St. Anthony's school. This is considered a temporary solution, but will provide a suitable location for 3 to 4 years. The child care program is still actively searching for a permanent location in which to operate. The regional contribution to support

this temporary relocation was \$176,000 and completes the funding required for Dalhousie Parents from this group allocation. Further capital funding requirements from Dalhousie Parents would be managed through a separate process.

Community Programs

Two community child care programs, Gloucester Child Care Services, Garderie Heritage Child Care Centre and City View Day Care Centre were allocated capital grants in 1999. Gloucester Heritage completed work to upgrade their facility and received a capital grant of \$50,000.

In 1999 a plan for the relocation of the City View Day Care program to the JDS Uniphase campus in South Nepean was approved. Regional Council supported a capital grant allocation of \$600,000 in 1999 and approved a precommitment of a portion of the 2000 child care capital budget of up to \$600,000 to provide for the balance of funding required for the City View relocation project. Subsequently, JDS Uniphase deferred making a final decision on their involvement in the child care facility until the development of their campus is complete between October of 2000 and April of 2001.

In response to these project changes, Regional Council approved that the 1999 capital grant allocation be held for the relocation of the City View Day Care program, but that the second installment of \$600,000, precommitted from the 2000 budget, be instead advanced to 2001. The advancement of the second funding installment allowed the Region to respond to additional capital grant requirements from the community for projects that were ready to proceed.

City View Day Care Centre and City View Family Day Care continue to require a new location to operate their programs and they are currently looking for alternative options in the South Nepean area including the possibility of co-locating the child care programs with other community services in the area. The South Nepean Needs Assessment – Growing Community, Growing Needs, funded by the Region has recently been delivered to the Nepean Community Resource Centre and the Region. The review of the study by the department is ongoing, but it is clear that child care is a priority in South Nepean. The report states that while the need for child care services has been inferred from child care providers' waiting lists and ongoing requests for service in the past, the study results strongly confirm that more child care services are required in South Nepean. Child care was identified by residents and community representatives as the number one priority issue and service area that needs to be addressed in South Nepean. The Needs Assessment also supports the service hub service delivery model to provide a range of services to South Nepean including child care. Regional staff will continue to work with the City View Day Care program to relocate their services in South Nepean and continue to plan with the other community partners around a broader service model that would include the City View Day Care program.

Additional 1999 Capital Grant Allocations

In 1999, Regional Council approved child care capital funding to one project outside of the regular grants process. Early Beginnings Multicultural Child Development Centre, in the west end of Ottawa, relocated their program to a new building, with the assistance of a regional capital grant of \$135,000. The centre has been open at the new location for approximately one year.

UPDATE ON 2000 CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Regional Council approved capital grants as indicated below totaling \$2,385,536 in April, 2000 for school boards related to new school construction as well as for community child care programs. Funding to support playground modifications required by new safety regulations was included in the minor capital grant funding stream.

Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du centre-est (CECLFCE)	\$300,000
Conseil des écoles publiques de l'est de l'Ontario (CEPEO)	\$583,250
Kanata Research Park Family Centre	\$621,286
Coccinelle/Résidence Saint-Louis	\$190,000
The Children's Place	\$266,000
Minor Capital Grants	\$425,000

New School Construction

A total of four new child care programs have been opened in the two school boards in the Region that together with child care programs requested capital grant allocations in 2000. All of the new programs in schools are located outside of the Greenbelt where new child care services are required to meet the current needs as well as forecasted future demand.

The Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du centre-est (CECLFCE) has opened a new school in Barrhaven for the 2000/01 school year. The child care program, operated by Garderie cooperative Le manège has opened and serves 74 preschool, kindergarten and school age children. The regional capital grant of \$300,000 has been provided to the child care program for this project.

The Conseil des écoles publiques de l'est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) opened three new schools in Cumberland, Kanata, and Orleans. A child care program, each for 66 children is now operating in each school. Le Centre préscolaire Coccinelle d'Orléans operates the child care programs in Cumberland and Orleans and a new operator is running the program in Kanata. The three child care programs in CEPEO schools have in total received capital grants of \$583,250 to support these three projects.

Community Programs

The Kanata Research Park Family Centre serves families that work at the Research Park or live in the Kanata community. The facility is located at the former Newbridge Networks 'Lodge'. The Family Centre provides a toddler, preschool and kindergarten child care program and includes full day, part-time and flex hour care. The centre was renovated and licensed for 97 children but began by opening a program for 59 children. The centre is now full with 59 children and is planning to expand within their licensed capacity. The Centre received a regional capital grant of \$621,286 to support this project.

Le Centre préscolaire Coccinelle d'Orléans currently operates 7 francophone child care programs at different sites in the east end as well as one parent resource centre. Their newest child care program at La Résidence Saint-Louis in Orleans for 26 toddlers and preschoolers is scheduled to open September 25, 2000. Regional Council approved a capital grant of \$190,000 to support this project.

The Children's Place operates a 24 hour, 7 day a week licensed child care program at 1150 Carling Avenue. The program has 65 licensed spaces and serves 152 children. The program provides flexible, part-time group care as well as subsidized spaces. The Children's Place made an offer to purchase a building adjacent to their current site conditional upon the ability to secure the appropriate zoning to operate a child care program. The zoning change has now been approved and the purchase has been finalized. They are currently beginning the construction process to add an additional 5 toddlers, 8 preschoolers and 5-7 spaces for their wellness project. The building would also accommodate 8-12 children from their current location to ease the congestion at that site. It is expected that these spaces will be open by the end of the year. Regional Council approved \$266,000 to support this project

NEW REQUESTS FOR 2000 CAPITAL GRANTS

Le centre parascolaire Parasol

Le centre parascolaire Parasol is a community program that provides a French before and after school care program for 100 children. It operates in a Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du centre-est (CECLFCE) school in Nepean. The center is in the process of extending their service to include 24 preschool children and is also changing its status to obtain licensing under the Day Nurseries Act. To accommodate the needs of the younger children and meet health and safety and licensing requirements certain modifications are required. The total capital cost to implement these changes is \$103,000. Parasol has requested a regional capital grant totaling \$82,400. Regional staff is recommending this grant which would be comprised of an 80% regional contribution of \$72,400 for major capital modifications and a 50% contribution of \$10,000 for equipment.

Conseil des écoles publiques de l'est de l'Ontario (CEPEO)

The Conseil des écoles publiques de l'est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) is planning to close one small school in Ottawa and is constructing a new elementary school in the Sawmill Creek area of Ottawa. The school is intended to open for September 2001. Centre parascolaire la Clementine currently operates a child care program in the CEPEO school that is closing. The CEPEO and Centre parascolaire la Clementine would like to relocate the child care program in the new school and also offer a parent resource program. Centre parascolaire la Clémentine has requested a regional capital grant of \$250,000 towards a total project cost of \$480,000. The location of a program in the Sawmill Creek area would conform to the strategic plan of Regroupement des services de garde de langue française for child care programs since there is a high demand for child care services in this area of Ottawa.

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is opening a new school in Barrhaven in September 2001. The OCDSB would like to include a kindergarten, school age child care program in the new school that would serve 50 children. Regional staff has reviewed the request and the possibilities that the location offers, particularly as a potential site for the relocation of City View. Due to the location of the site and the size of the City View program the school was not deemed appropriate for the relocation of City View. Regional staff does support the creation of a new program consistent with the OCDSB plans in the new school. The Barrhaven area has a high demand for child care and is outside the Greenbelt where most new programs are intended to be located. The South Nepean Needs Assessment also identified broad support for the inclusion of child care programs in schools in the area. Regional staff is recommending that this project be funded from Regional Development Charges levied for child care programs. A regional capital grant of \$300,000 could be provided for this project. Staff will work with the School Board to identify an operator for the program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is currently \$200,000 in the child care capital reserve fund from accumulated interest as well as \$300,000 from the collection of Regional Development Charges for child care. This report recommends the transfer of \$132,400 from the child care contingency fund to the child care capital reserve fund. With the approval of these recommendations by Council, there will be \$632,400 available to allocate child care capital grants to the community.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Regional staff has had discussions with the community child care programs as well as the school boards that have requested capital grant allocations recommended in this report. Regional staff has actively worked with these groups to assist in developing and finalizing their plans. Regional staff also continues to work with the programs that received funding approval in 1999 and 2000 that are not completed. The allocations recommended in this report are consistent with the strategic plans in development with the french and english child care communities.

CONCLUSION

The school boards operating in Ottawa-Carleton remain interested in co-locating child care centres in new schools. This trend is expected to continue over the next few years with the construction of future schools. The continuation of the school consolidation process has been slower than originally expected. This has allowed programs located in schools already identified for closure as well as programs expecting to be affected, more time to plan and examine alternative options. The delays in the school closure process have allowed the Region to consider providing capital grants to support community programs in 2000 that are not affected by this process.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

Funds are available to provide capital grants to Le centre parascolaire Parasol and Centre parascolaire la Clémentine upon approval of the transfer of \$132,000 from the Child Care Contingency Fund to the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund. Funds are also available from the Child Care Regional Development Charge Capital Fund for a child care program in a new Ottawa-Carleton District School Board school in Barrhaven. In accordance with Financing Guideline 52.d, Ottawa Transition Board approval is required.

*Approved by T. Fedec
on behalf of the Finance Commissioner*