

June 29, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Stephen.Lecceco@pc.ola.org

Via email

RE: recommendation for amendment to the current regulations for licensed home-based childcare operators to increase allowable spaces.

Dear Minister Lecce,

During the June 26, 2023 regular meeting of council, council in response to recent publicly raised concern heard a report from staff in relation to the above, with the following resolution passed:

Moved: Liz Welsh

Seconded: Chad Hyatt

WHEREAS in response the Petrolia Childcare Advocacy Group's recent delegation to Council where they identified a shortage of child care spaces in the Town of Petrolia; and

WHEREAS through additional research undertaken by the Town Staff, and in consultation with the County of Lambton Social Services, it has been further identified that there is an extreme shortage of child care spaces not only across the County but the Province as a whole; and

WHEREAS in response to the identified need the County hosted a community information night to educate members of the public who may be able to offer a licensed home-based child care service;

NOW THEREFORE **the Council of the Town of Petrolia recommends to the Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, that in time for the 2023 school year amendment to the current regulations be made to allow licensed home-based child care operators the ability to provide two (2) before and after school care spaces to school aged children, in addition the permitted six (6) full time child care spaces; and**

THAT in an effort to attract and retain qualified early childhood educators, the Minister of Education, review the current wage bracket for early childhood educators with implementation of an increase to wages to align with the services provided; and

THAT the province provides more capital based funding sources for the construction of new centre-based facilities; and

THAT the province considers increasing the current goal of thirty-three percent (33%) access ratio, to align better with the current provincial situation and anticipated population growth over the next ten (10) years; and

THAT these items be considered sooner rather than later, to assist in remedying the critical child care shortage experienced in Petrolia, Lambton, and across the province; and

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THAT this recommendation be forwarded to Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario | Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services | Mr. Bob Bailey, MPP of Sarnia-Lambton | Hon. Monte McNaughton, MPP of Lambton-Kent-Middlesex | Mr. Kevin Marriott, Warden of Lambton County | Municipalities of Ontario;

Carried

Kind regards,

Original Signed

Mandi Pearson
Clerk/Operations Clerk

cc:

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario premier@ontario.ca | Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services Michael.Parsaco@pc.ola.org | Mr. Bob Bailey, MPP of Sarnia-Lambton bob.bailey@pc.ola.org | Hon. Monte McNaughton, MPP of Lambton-Kent-Middlesex Monte.McNaughtonco@pc.ola.org | Mr. Kevin Marriott, Warden of Lambton County Monte.McNaughtonco@pc.ola.org | Municipalities of Ontario

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