

Bright Beginnings of Tweed & District Little Learners Daycare

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Our Mission Statement: To provide care and education for young children through a program promoting their healthy physical, social, and intellectual growth.

April 23, 2024

Municipality of Tweed Council

Council:

We are providing this letter to explain our request for a rental agreement and provide background information on our organization along with a rationale of why we require consideration.

Bright Beginnings of Tweed and District is a non-profit childcare centre with charity status incorporated in 1980. We operate sustainably within St Carthagh's Catholic School. Currently we are licensed to provide care for up to 61 children daily 7:30am to 6:00pm in a toddler, a preschool and a school age program. Further expansion of school age programs is in our long-term plan to be located within the school.

Since the introduction of the federal Canada Wide Early Learning and Childcare Act (CWELCC), fees for parents have been reduced for those under 6 years by 52.75%. Our enrolment in the CWELCC program was signed in good faith of appropriate funding from the various levels of government. Much of the funding formulas had not been finalized by our signing deadline. Part of the agreement requires us to maintain our current levels of fees without any option to increase parent costs. While the provincial government is providing numerous types of funding including wage supplements, it has only guaranteed 2.75% inflationary supplement to offset increased costs. Our organization is a labour-intensive business. Our current budget expenses include close to 90% labour costs.

The CWELCC reduction of fees has had a dramatic effect on the parents in our community. Their childcare costs have reduced over 50% and many can now return to the work force and that extra income benefits our local economy. Unfortunately, the lower cost and large return to the workforce after Covid has resulted in a massive request for childcare. Our wait list for toddler and preschool care is beyond our current capabilities. We recognize the need for more quality licensed care within the municipality and our research has shown the Actinolite Hall office space would make a great satellite site. We could offer a toddler program for 10 children and a preschool program for 8 children within the current space.

We have created an updated floor plan which would accommodate the changes required for a licensed centre, are creating a business plan to submit to the County of Hastings for funding and we are beginning the process required for licensing with the Ministry of Education. One of our first steps is to finalize a rental agreement with the municipality.

We request as low as possible monthly rental cost to allow us to show sustainability and qualify for the government funding for renovations and ongoing operating costs. If we cannot show sustainability in our budget, the funding will be denied. We wish to partner with the municipality to create more opportunities for a vibrant workforce in our municipality and quality care for the youngest members of the community. We ask that the council approve a monthly rent cost of \$100 or less for the use of the space.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let us know if you require more information.

Bright Beginnings Board of Directors.



