



REPORT TO: Co-Chairs and Members of the
Public Health and Social Services Committee

SUBJECT: 2007 Children's Services Funding Contract
with Ministry of Community and Social Services
and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services

RECOMMENDATION

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2007 Children's Services Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff are in receipt of correspondence (copy attached) requesting that the Ministry's standard annual 2007 Funding Contract for Children's Services be signed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provincial Subsidy = \$22,461,452 / Regional Levy = \$4,648,631. This is within the 2007 Niagara Region budget approval.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain the necessary Committee and Council approvals to authorize the Regional Chairman and Clerk to execute the Children's Services Funding Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Community and Social Services and The Ministry of Children and Youth Services require an annual contract to be entered into with Niagara Region in order to proceed with the agreed upon funding.

REPORT

2007 Children's Services Funding Contract

As a community partner in promoting healthy child development in the Niagara Region, Children's Services is responsible for the management of the child care system for children from birth to 12 years of age. Services are provided either through contractual arrangement or Regionally-operated programs. Key areas of responsibility for the Service Area are:

- **Fee Subsidy** which is provided for families deemed eligible for financial assistance so they may access a range of child care supports and services throughout Niagara;
- **Supports to Children with Special Needs** which provides a range of support services available throughout Niagara to assist in the integration of children with special needs;
- **Resource Centres** which offer a range of early childhood development and parenting/caregiver supports including drop in/play groups;
- **Wage Subsidy** which provides funding to improve the salaries and benefits of child care workers in licensed child care programs;
- **Early Learning and Child Care Funding** which is funding that began in 2004 from the Ministry through the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care specifically focusing on expanding child care space within the service system for children aged 30 months to 5 years; and
- **Best Start** which is 100% funding received from the Federal Government and is designated to give all of Niagara's children the best possible opportunity to reach their full potential and succeed in life.

Below is the 2007 funding for the key areas of responsibility.

Components	Gross Expenditure	MCSS Subsidy	Regional Levy
Systems Management	\$710,052	\$355,026	\$355,026
Fee Subsidy	\$11,405,000	\$9,123,999	\$2,281,001
Special Needs	\$2,016,354	\$1,613,083	\$403,271
Resource Centres	\$712,800	\$570,240	\$142,560
Wage Subsidy	\$4,807,972	\$3,911,574	\$896,398
Early Learning & Child Care (ELCC)	\$2,467,275	\$1,896,900	\$570,375
Best Start	\$4,971,360	\$4,971,360	\$0
One-Time Repairs & Maintenance	\$19,270	\$19,270	\$0
TOTAL	\$27,110,083	\$22,461,452	\$4,648,631

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Brian Hutchings
Commissioner, Community Services

Mike Trojan
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Lori Child, Cost Analyst and reviewed by Cathy Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services and Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services.

Appendix 1 Correspondence from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services regarding the standard annual 2007 Service Contract for Children's Services.

