

## **REPORT**

**TO:** Community Services Executive Committee

**FROM:** Shawna McRitchie, Children's Complex Superintendent

**DATE:** February 2, 2017

**RE:** **2017 Child Care Workers Wage Enhancement Application**

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### **BACKGROUND**

Since the implementation of the Provincial Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant in 2015, we have been approved to move forward with the application that will allow funds to be disbursed in a onetime lump sum with the remainder of the Wage Enhancement being allocated per paycheck.

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, the Town received an email from the local DSSAB with the 2017 Provincial Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant. (Applications are due by Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017) Wage Enhancement funding entitlement is allocated to operators based on the hours worked in qualifying positions for the prior year. This means that operators will be required to apply for funding every year to update this information.

To be eligible for the Grant, the staff must not earn more than \$26.68 per hour (Wage Enhancement Includes up to \$2 an hour plus 17.5 per cent in benefits). The objectives of the wage enhancement are:

- To help close the wage gap between Registered Early Childcare Educators (RECEs) working in the publicly funded education system and those in the licensed child care sector;
- To help stabilize child care operators by supporting their ability to retain RECEs and non-RECE program staff; and
- To support greater employment and income security.

The Provincial Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant is a great asset to the Children's Complex, primarily in our school based programs. Our School based positions are split shifts, part time positions; staff turn over is high and continuous as staff are seeking full time employment and consistent hours and the Education system is offering this to them.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Community Services Executive Committee recommends to Mayor & Council to approve the submission of the Provincial Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant (deadline February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017).

We understand the timeline of the application is not congruent to the regular requirements of agenda items and approval from the Community Services Executive Committee and then Mayor and Council. However, we would like to ask for an exception in this matter. All departments, including Day Care have been working diligently on new systems, upgrades, program requirements and this item, while an important one, was placed on the backburner. We have explained to DSSAB that while our application has been submitted, it must be considered pending until we receive approval from the CS Executive and Mayor & Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S McRitchie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawna McRitchie  
Children's Complex Superintendent

<p><b>Council approval of this report will</b> approve the submission of the Provincial Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant to the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board.</p>
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