



*Office of the Director of Education  
Office of the Chair of the Board*

January 11, 2017

Councillor Gary Crawford  
Chair, Budget Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2

**Re: Toronto 2017 Budget**

Dear Mr. Crawford,

The Toronto Catholic District School Board serves approximately 92,000 students (61,000 elementary and 31,000 secondary) on 170 elementary and 30 secondary sites, and in collaboration with the City, provides a number of essential and valued services to communities, including child care.

It is with great concern that we have learned that your committee is considering proposals that would significantly diminish child care services arising from a review of your operating budget and planning process. This will negatively impact some of the most vulnerable families in our community.

A number of agreements over the years have been developed to ensure that arrangements are protected despite ongoing fiscal challenges.

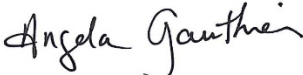
Since 1998, a financial agreement has preserved arrangements with child care operators in our schools by offsetting costs in the amount of nearly \$750,000 a year. These funds not only keep the access to child care affordable, but they ensure a seamless transition of children to school. There are currently 43 school sites that support child care and this would be threatened to varying degrees should the terms of the child care operations change without sufficient funding.


Although commitments remain to those families with greatest needs, the reality is that amidst the other equally daunting challenges like housing affordability, an absence of supports would further marginalize a greater range of families along the socio-economic spectrum of need. Child care forms a vital part of the comprehensive and integrated network of support for our communities.

On behalf of those child care centres located in schools we will be meeting with Children's services to discuss the City's 2017 Budget and the proposed discontinuing payment of school occupancy costs.

Please reconsider this aspect of the service reduction strategy in your budget deliberations. Toronto's commitment to being a livable, world-class city means that families should have access to the supports and services they need. In collaboration with all other school boards in the City, we would like to express our opposition to any reductions that diminish the current operations of our childcares. At the very least, without any firm commitments for more funding from either the provincial or federal governments, any change without improvements to service levels should not be contemplated.

Sincerely,

  
Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education

  
Angela Kennedy  
Chair of the Board