



November 16, 2010

Mr. John Stadnyk
Director of Education
Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board
90 Ontario Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6C 6G7

Dear Mr. Stadnyk:

Re: Child Care Centre & Best Start Child & Family Centre - Letter of Support

Since the onset of the Best Start initiative in 2004 it has been the Ontario Government's expectation that all new child care spaces created in the province will be opened in Ontario's publicly funded schools. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has strongly supported child care centres located in schools. It has been proven that Child Care Centres in Schools acts as a feeder to the schools and assist children with their transition to education in a familiar setting. We have also heard that when parents register their child in a school, their main concern is that the school has a Child Care Centre for their younger siblings.

As of April 2010, Minister Laurel Broten with the Ministry of Children & Youth Services (MCYS), and Minister Leona Dombrowsky with the Ministry of Education jointly announced the transfer of child care from MCYS to the Ministry of Education. This transfer of all child care responsibility to Education also adheres to a vision of ensuring that children receive the best opportunities for learning, as well as care throughout their early years.

Special Advisor on Early Learning, Dr. Charles Pascal was asked to make recommendations on "how to build on the success of Ontario's Best Start strategy for a comprehensive, continuous, and integrated system for children from birth to age 12 and their families". His number one recommendation was 'The Province should create a continuum of early learning, child care and family supports for children from the prenatal period through to adolescence, under the leadership of the Minister of Education'. This recommendation certainly supports that it is in the best interest of the child for Child Care Centres and Best Start Child & Family Centres to be located in school.

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Sacred Heart presently houses a licensed Child Care Centre and a Best Start Child & Family Centre operated by Our Children Our Future (OCOF). We understand the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will be building a new school at the Sacred Heart site. We would like to advocate on behalf of the families in the LaCloche area presently utilizing the Child Care Centre and Best Start Child & Family Centre located in Sacred Heart School. We would strongly encourage the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board to include both these programs as part of the new building plans. Not having a Child Care Centre incorporated in your new school could have a negative impact on the school population and may affect the availability of licensed child care in the LaCloche area if OCOF is unable to locate a suitable site for their Child Care Centre.

As the Service System Manager for Child Care in the LaCloche area, we are responsible for providing funding to all licensed Child Care Centres and Best Start Child & Family Centres within the LaCloche area. We understand that, based on early estimates, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will require approximately \$600,000 in capital funding to include the existing Child Care Centre and Best Start Child & Family Centre in the new school. The funding received by this DSB from the province does not include capital dollars that would allow us to consider a request of this magnitude.

Since the Ministry of Education will soon be transferred the responsibility for funding Child Care Centres, I believe they are in the best position to support and fund your request.

Sincerely,



Fern Dominelli
CAO, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB

C.c. Honorable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education
Honorable Mike Brown, MPP Algoma-Manitoulin
Stewart Meikleham, School Council Chair, Sacred Heart School
Syndy Withers, Principal Sacred Heart School