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City of Prince George

**Early Learning Preschool of the North TUP April 29, 2024**

I am in support of **Early Learning Preschool of the North's** application for a temporary use permit for the already licensed preschool program to allow an additional childcare permit on the property 2588 Queensway Street. This change will allow families to have access to a preschool program as well as continued childcare throughout the day. Finding childcare in the prince George area is a challenge with lengthy wait lists and we have been operating in the area successfully for the past six years.

Ensuring that we have access to preschool and childcare with reduced childcare fees is a need for so many families in the prince George area. Without access to affordable childcare, working is a challenge for most families. Creating additional childcare spaces in this area will not only support working parents and make life more affordable for families but will create jobs for ECE's.

- More funding for CCFRI childcare funds families \$575/monthly (lowering fees) costs remain a huge barrier for parents to access childcare because preschool follows the school district 57 calendar there are closures, and our parents are trying to find care during these times. Offering childcare during preschool closures would alleviate this stress for families. (Spring, break, Christmas break, Pro D days, Summer)
- More families would be able to access preschool and be able to still work because of the all-day care option
- Preschool is under four hours: Speaking with our families over 90% are two parent working households and are needing all day care without sacrificing preschool.
- Walking distance; most of our families live in this area and walk to preschool
- We have grandparents raising grandchildren and low-income families without vehicles and having this facility within walking distance has been a huge blessing for them.
- Community support with being close to the South Fort George Family Resource Center some of our families have been referred by FRC
- In our area we have been trying to find another suitable location for our long-standing preschool and unfortunately, we have not found anything to accommodate our program

As a parent with the Early Learning Preschool of the North I support the need for an affordable and accessible licensed childcare program in this neighborhood.

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