



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ORILLIA

Email: cfuworillia@gmail.com

Website: www.cfuworillia.org

February 5, 2013

Mayor Angelo Orsi
50 Andrew St. S., Suite 300
Orillia, Ontario L3V 7T5

Dear Mayor Orsi,

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) advocates for women's equality in Canada and abroad, and is concerned with a wide range of other public policy issues important to women, including: aboriginal affairs, education, the environment, peace, justice, human rights, plus access to affordable regulated child care and early learning.

CFUW Orillia is concerned about the impending closure of the Orillia Central Preschool. This child care centre serves the downtown core, offering regulated, affordable, accessible child care and early learning to over 76 families per day or 380 families per week. The families vary from double income professionals to single parent/teen mothers trying to complete their education at The Learning Centre.

Although, 60% of the parents pay full fees, 40% of the families are subsidized. The cost of child care is a major concern for families, and the ripple effects of not having this benefit are significant. If a parent cannot secure quality child care, he or she may be unlikely to sustain employment or attend school. If a young teen mom loses the benefit of quality subsidized day care, regrettably, she may decide not to continue with her schooling instead going onto Ontario Works therefore becoming a financial burden on Orillia rather than a financially contributing member of our community.

One of the benefits of a child care centre such as the Orillia Central Preschool is the care given by educated Registered Early Childhood Educators or RECE's. RECE's provide services that are vital to the health and education of the children that attend the Preschool plus this has a ripple effect in the community at large. When children are nurtured in a caring, safe and stimulating environment, they are more likely to be successful when they start school.

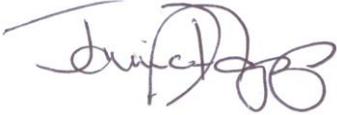
The Orillia Central Preschool is also a partner with Catalpa Early Intervention, assisting many families who have children with special needs. This type of service is essential to the development of these children and the support of families that struggle with children who have learning or social disabilities.

Mayor Orsi, the cost of child care makes it inaccessible for many middle income families and out of reach for families that struggle financially. If the Orillia Central Preschool were to close, many families would not have the income to make up the cost between the subsidy they receive and the actual cost of child care. This would create a ripple effect in Orillia for all members of the community. Families would not be able to afford to participate economically in our community and their children would not receive the quality care that enables them to go onto school and be successful in their education.

CFUW Orillia is asking you and the Orillia Council to consider the effects that the closure of the Orillia Central Preschool would have on the 76 families that rely on quality, affordable, regulated child care in a central location in our community. We look forward to your response.

CFUW Orillia has 78 members locally, is a member of Ontario Council of CFUW. Our club is also a member of CFUW National a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded, bilingual and non-governmental organization of women university graduates in 110 Clubs across Canada that works to improve the status of women and girls, education, peace, justice and human rights. CFUW holds special consultative status at the United Nations and is represented at the Sectoral Committee on Education of the Canadian Sub-committee for UNESCO. CFUW is the largest of 61 national affiliates of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janice Napp', written in a cursive style.

Janice Napp, President **CFUW Orillia**
janicenapp@gmail.com
705 835-0094

c.c Garfiled Dunlop MPP Simcoe North