

January 10, 2013

To: Jim Watson, Mayor
City of Ottawa

From: Dr. Wallace Clement, Dean
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
Carleton University

Re. Exclusion of Graduate Students from Child Care Subsidy Program

Dear Mayor Watson,

At its meeting of 21 November 2012, Carleton University's Graduate Faculty Board (a representative body including graduate advisors, graduate student representatives, and graduate staff) expressed deep concern about the City of Ottawa's decision to exclude graduate students from the Child Care Subsidy Program.

This exclusion from the subsidy program is likely to have tremendously negative repercussions on many of our graduate students who rely on the subsidy to alleviate some of the financial exigencies associated with child care. Without the subsidy, some students – especially female students – might not have access to daycare services. This will put them in the untenable position of having to choose between their child and their academic aspirations; a dilemma that can only have an extremely detrimental impact on their experience at Carleton. We are worried that this will seriously affect the ability of many students to complete their degrees in a timely fashion and might even jeopardize their entire academic future.

We urge you to reverse this recent decision and continue to allow graduate students to benefit from this indispensable subsidy.

Sincerely,



Wallace Clement
Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs

cc. Councillor David Chernushenko
Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte, President, Carleton University