



January 23, 2013

Mayor Jim Watson
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1

RE: CHANGES TO CHILDCARE SUBSIDY IMPACTING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Dear Mayor Jim Watson,

I am writing on behalf of the 300,000 students in Ontario who are members of the Canadian Federation of Students, including 50,000 graduate students, to condemn the City of Ottawa's new policy to put graduate students as lower priority recipients of the child care subsidy program.

Last week, at the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario Semi-Annual General Meeting, our members voted overwhelmingly in support of a motion calling on the City of Ottawa to repeal this policy and to appeal to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to confirm that low-income graduate students will not be excluded from any child care subsidies in the province of Ontario.

Access to affordable and safe child care is important for many graduate student parents, who without it would not be able to pursue their research, their work as teaching assistants, or complete other academic requirements. Graduate students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in the country and often struggle with debt from previous degrees. With no access to childcare, many graduate students will be forced to drop out or lengthen their time to completion.

Several Ottawa graduate students have already been informed that they will no longer have access to a child care subsidy as of May 2013. Others have been told that they can apply, but there is relatively no chance of them receiving it, seeing as the program is overwhelmed with applicants and underfunded

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and they are not a priority even though they are low-income. This policy penalizes graduate students who are pursuing higher education to better themselves and their family's future, as well as the future of Ontario.

Students urge the city of Ottawa to consider all low-income residents equally for childcare subsidies.

In solidarity,

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

Sarah Jayne King
Chairperson

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CC: Ottawa City Councilors; Anna Goldfinch, Carleton University GSA VP External; Taiva Tegler, University of Ottawa's GSAED External Commissioner; Minister of Education Laurel Broten; Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy