



## **RESOLUTION 23-13**

DATE: January 19, 2023

MOVED BY: Ryan Bignucolo

SECONDED BY: Al MacNevin

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board supports Resolution No. 2022-273 passed by the Municipality of East Ferris at their meeting held October 11, 2022 regarding the child care workforce shortage in Ontario; and

WHEREAS access to quality licensed child care is an essential component of Ontario's social and economic well-being and enable children to grow up with a sense of community; and

WHEREAS lack of licensed child care is a barrier for parents to return or enter into the workforce, thus putting a strain on families, hindering economic participation, and forcing parents to remain at home to care for their children; and

WHEREAS the demand for child care spaces creates waitlists that have parents waiting for several years for a space, if they receive a space at all; and

WHEREAS in recent years the recruitment and retention of qualified Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE's) and child care staff has been a challenge that has been exasperated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the workforce crisis in the early years and child care sector has been further exasperated by the significant wage disparity between the compensation paid to RECE's employed by school boards and those employed in licensed child care centres due to lack of funding which has created an inequity for workers with equal qualifications; and

WHEREAS Ontario has signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement putting Ontario on the path to reducing child care fees to an average of \$10/day which will create a demand for more child care spaces when a workforce shortage already exists; and

WHEREAS the province of Ontario's commitment to a minimum wage of \$19/hour for RECE's with \$1 annual increases until reaching \$25/hour does not provide and immediate response to attracting and retaining child care staff and will take many years to correct the wage disparity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board advocates for the Province of Ontario to address the child care workforce shortage in Ontario by immediately increasing the \$19/hour minimum wage and providing benefits to RECE's in licensed child care centres to an equitable level to that which is paid to RECE's employed by school boards; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario launch and financially support an accelerated Early Learning Childhood Education program, to be completed within 14 to 16 months, similar to the program launched in March 2022 for Personal Support Workers (PSW's), where funding supported the costs of tuition, books, and other mandatory fees, to help address the shortage of RECE's in Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to OMSSA, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, Childcare Resource and Research Unit, NOSDA, FONOM, AMO, all District Social Services Administration Boards in Northern Ontario, and all Ontario Municipalities to request their support and advocacy for this resolution; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic Fedeli and Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha.

*Bruce Killah*

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