In accordance with the notice and submission deadline requirements of Sections 18.1 (a) and 11.3, respectively, of Niagara Region's Procedural By-law, the Regional Clerk received from Councillor Huson a motion to be brought forward for consideration at the August 13, 2020 Council meeting respecting Child Care.

WHEREAS the Region of Niagara and Niagara's twelve local area municipalities jointly declared a state of emergency on April 3, 2020 to protect the health of our communities;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a destructive toll on Niagara's economy, resulting in business closures, job loses or a reduction of wages for Niagara residents and families;

WHEREAS women have been disproportionately impacted by these economic impacts, or have had to leave the labour market altogether in order to provide child care or home-schooling;

WHEREAS the provision of child care benefits employers, is proven to support economic recovery, but also leads to greater workforce participation by women and supports their return to the workforce;

WHEREAS the economic recovery of the Niagara Region and Ontario is dependent on families having access to safe, reliable, and affordable child care that incorporates early learning principles; and

WHEREAS a 2012 study on the economic value of child care identified that every dollar invested in child care in Ontario has a direct regional economic output of $2.27.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Niagara Region **REQUEST** that:

    a. The Government of Ontario prioritize children and child care as part of our overall post-pandemic recovery plan;

    b. The Government of Ontario develop, adequately fund and release publicly a comprehensive plan that can support families through the provision of licensed child care and early learning education; and

    c. The Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada work collaboratively to develop a National Child Care Strategy to make child care an essential part of our public infrastructure that can support and expedite economic recovery.