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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

April 27, 2021

Ann-Marie Norio  
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Sent via email: [Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca)

Dear Committee Chair Greenwood, Public Health and Social Services Committee

**Re: Request to Increase Licensed Child Care in the Township of West Lincoln**

With full support of the Council of West Lincoln, I am writing to this committee to engage in conversation about the need for an increase in licensed child care in the Township of West Lincoln.

As highlighted in a recent report entitled the Early Learning and Childcare as Key Economic Infrastructure by Deloitte Canada dated March 26, 2021, child care is described as education that is provided using a curriculum-based program delivered by trained educators can provide several benefits including but not limited to:

- **Benefits to Children:** Investments can have positive impacts on the outcomes for children, including better behavioural/social skills, better mental and physical health, and better long-term labour market outcomes.
- **Increase in the Labourforce Participation for Women:** Expanding early childhood education can have a positive economic impact through a resulting boost in the labour participation of women.
- **Benefits to Parents:** Beyond increasing workforce participation for women, ELCC can help reduce parental stress, which benefits their mental health and in turn benefits their children, work performance, and standard of living.
- **Promotion of Equality:** There is also evidence that investments in ELCC disproportionately benefit lower income Canadians and this can help address socioeconomic challenges, such as income inequality.
- **Decreased Reliance of Special Needs Education:** There is evidence of the sustained impact of ELCC on reducing the need for special education in the US, the UK, Canada, and other advanced economies.

After a recent review of the available child care in West Lincoln, we as a Council see a need to increase the amount of licensed child care especially for the youngest of children. It is our hope that this letter will highlight the need for our community and will promote further consideration of planning for our community.

Children begin life ready for relationships that assist in early brain development. Relationships continue to be an intricate part of human existence. Not only will a successful quality child care program promote relationship building amongst its youngest clientele, it is imperative that a growing community such as West Lincoln can provide such opportunities to our residents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Bylsma", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Dave Bylsma

Fully Supported by All Council Members as listed below:

Mayor Dave Bylsma  
Councillor Shelley Bradaric  
Councillor Cheryl Ganann  
Councillor Harold Jonker  
Councillor Mike Rehner  
Councillor William Reilly  
Councillor Jason Trombetta

cc. Regional Councillor Albert Witteveen