

From: Niagara Region Website
Sent: Wednesday, 21 April 2021 14:30:40 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Clerks
Cc: webincoming
Subject: Online Form - Enquiry from Region website

Enquiry from Region website

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name

Mishka Balsom

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municipality

St. Catharines

other mun

subject

Affordable Daycare

comments

To Chair Bradley and Members of Council: On behalf of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and its membership, I would like to express the sense of urgency we feel on the question of affordable and accessible childcare. While this issue is long-standing, the pandemic has thrown it into sharp relief. In 89% of all Canadian households with a stay-at-home parent, that parent is the mother. A report from the Niagara Community Observatory and Niagara Workforce Planning Board indicated that between February and April of 2020, working mothers with young children had reduced their working hours at a rate four to five times that of men. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce's annual

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Ontario Economic Report consistently finds, year after year, that the greatest single concern for Ontario's businesses is access to talent. A business community already starved of skilled and qualified workers cannot withstand such a massive departure of skilled and qualified workers from the labour force without economic loss. The lack of affordable and accessible childcare is an economic issue that holds Niagara's business growth and prosperity back. Parents represent a significant pool of talent which is strangled by their inability to find someone to care for their children at a price that makes employment economically viable for them. We urge you to grant this issue the priority it deserves and to work immediately with your provincial and federal counterparts to ensure that affordable childcare becomes a reality.

reply
yes

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