

7.3. Advocacy Item – Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan

Written Submissions:

- Emily Burton
- Kedra Abdurahman

No

- **Written submission**

Good Evening,

I'm writing today about the ongoing early learning and child care issue that is happening in Fort McMurray. Affordable childcare is of monumental importance of working parents. The current rate for childcare is between \$1,000- \$1,500 per month per child. We are having to make the choice between maintaining a working career or raising a family. A choice we shouldn't have to make.

Not only are we struggling to afford childcare, our Educators are struggling to keep their jobs. Removing their Northern living allowance had forced a lot of skilled and educated educators out of their jobs and/or out of the city.

A few weeks ago my child's daycare center were forced to close their doors. In just a few short months our center went from being at full capacity to being nearly empty and having to close. The support, love and care that my child have received from his daycare is unmatched and I am forever grateful for everything they have done for my family. It's so heartbreaking to watch it all fall apart because the government doesn't feel that we are in need of affordable care for our children.

We are asking that the city fight for affordable child care that we so desperately need, to fight for our educators that work tirelessly for our children and we ask you to fight for women to be able to re-enter the workforce. Women deserve better, our educators deserve better and most importantly, our children deserve better.

Thanks,
Emily

- **Acknowledgment**

I have read and understand that my name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council agenda. My contact information will NOT be included in the public record.

From: Section 17 (1) FOIP
To: Legislative Assistants; Section 17 (1) FOIP
Subject: A concerned parent, Childcare Educator and Fort McMurray Citizen
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 12:29:46 PM

External Message - Please be cautious when opening links or attachments in email

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council

My name is Kedra Abdurahman, I am an Early Childhood Diploma graduate from Keyano who has spent the last 6 years working for a non-profit daycare within the Fort McMurray community. I am the mother of two little girls ages 8 and 6. I recently went through a separation and I'm now considered to be a single mom.

When I chose to become an early childhood educator I already knew there was no money to be made in the field however what I was passionate about was finding ways to learn and understand children as a whole.

Even though I knew there wasn't any money in this field it didn't stop me from pursuing an education in the field and becoming a passionate educator.

Now that I somehow fast forwarded 6 years of my life dedicated to this field, I'm forced to leave due to financial burdens. With a heavy heart, I officially gave my formal resignation letter yesterday.

In April of this year I suffered serious financial burdens as the \$1040 NLA pay I receive every month was taken away from me followed by an hourly pay cut that took effect two weeks later. My employer explained to me that my hourly pay cut was due to the Pandemic and of the cuts to the ELCC grant. On top of the NLA loss, pay decrease and a 300% fee increase to my child's daycare fee all taking place in the same month, I struggled to keep a positive mind set. These changes lead me into severe depression. I never imagined the day would come where I had to choose between doing something I'm passionate about or having a job with more financial stability. There were moments I contemplated leaving town because it no longer made financial sense to remain in Fort McMurray; however I did not want to separate my children from their father.

Today I am not only asking you but I am begging the mayor and council to advocate for the province to except the \$10 a day plan and I'm also begging you to find a way advocate to better support childcare workers with a wage that allows them to live without needing a second job or having to leave the field. My final request is that the Mayor and council also find a way to advocate so that the early childhood field can be recognized as a profession and workers are treated as such.

Thank you for your time.

Kedra Abdurahman,

Program Supervisor

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