

# City of Greater Sudbury Best Start Child Care Plan Update



Children Services Section  
Community Development Department  
May 2006



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**PART A:**

**1. Priorities**

The priority for the 2006/07 Best Start allocation is to sustain and secure the child care spaces created under Best Start, through fee subsidies, wage subsidies, special needs resourcing and administration. The City of Greater Sudbury had an original target of 270 spaces for the three year period of 2005/2008. An intensive process of community involvement and support for the Best Start program has resulted in the community creating 692 child care spaces by September 2006. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services has provided the following allocation for these spaces in 2006-07, representing a substantial increase over the original target and funding allocation:

**Table 1.1 Best Start Allocation 2006-07**

| <b>CMSM/DSSAB</b>       | <b>Total Child Care Spaces by Sept 2006</b> | <b>Best Start Child Care Space Allocation for 2006/07</b> | <b>Best Start Wage Improvement Allocation for 2006/07</b> | <b>Best Start Planning Allocation for 2006/07</b> | <b>Total 2006/07 Funding Allocations</b> |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| City of Greater Sudbury | 692   | \$5,188,000   | \$128,000   | \$35,000  | \$5,350,000                              |

Recognizing that there remains interest in the community to expand the existing child care spaces and that there will be available financial support, the City expects that additional Best Start spaces in schools can be created in addition to the 692 expected for September.

**2. Community Consultation**

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services requested that the Best Start Network, including the Regional French Language Best Start Network, be consulted in the development of this update. The City, while acknowledging the importance of consultation in the development of the Best Start Child Care Plan update, also chose to meet individually with school boards and child care providers recognizing that these partners have and continue to work collaboratively in the development of child care spaces. It must also be acknowledged that a formal consultation with the French Language Best Start Network was not possible due to the inability to have translated materials to the group before the report deadline requested by the Ministry. Therefore, the report addresses comments from Francophone members from the local Best Start Network.

The following is a summary of the issues raised:

**School Boards:** Representatives from the four school boards agreed to utilize a city-developed site selection checklist to aid child care providers in the provision of information when proposals

are requested. Questions were asked regarding the availability of capital dollars and school boards were advised that the Ministry did not flow any capital dollars as such in this round of funding. However, Children Services is confident that in the development of these new spaces there exists sufficient flexibility within the funding lines to accommodate minor renovation, program development, and start up funding. The four school boards also agreed to meet to discuss the differences between each board and individual school's cost recovery policy for community partners. In general, school boards are prepared to re-visit their plans for child care expansion and work with the city and child care providers to maintain and potentially increase child care spaces as per the City's planning priorities.

***Child Care Supervisor's Network:*** Questions arose concerning future development in stand-alone child care centres if there were no school spaces available. (Note: school boards have not identified this as an issue at this time). Child care operators are also concerned that funding "in silos" does not necessarily meet the needs of all families and may result in the establishment of wait lists.

***Best Start Network:*** Questions from the network concerned the need for school boards to change their own planning processes: how to address gaps in the system; how secondary priority areas could be moved to primary priority status; and how are needs to be addressed if no spaces exist in schools. Again, at this time school boards were not prepared to identify this as an issue.

### **3. Process**

#### **a) Fee Subsidies, Wage Subsidies, Special Needs Resourcing and Administration**

Program development and start up dollars will be funded from within the fee subsidies line. Program development dollars will be available to all programs looking to develop spaces in Best Start approved sites. Once opened, start up dollars will be provided for a period of up to 6 months to assist in sustaining the program's viability until enrollment is stabilized.

Refer to the Part B Best Start 2006/07 Template for the specific allocation of fee subsidies, wage subsidies, special needs resourcing and administration.

#### **b) Wage Improvements**

The City anticipates all monies will be spent in accordance with wage subsidy guidelines.

#### **c) Meeting the child care needs of families, including Francophone and First Nation**

To achieve this goal, the City undertook a planning exercise to determine priorities areas for child care expansion using the following criteria for 11 defined neighbourhoods: numbers of children per age group (infant, toddler, preschool, alt jk, and school age, based on the 2001

census), Early Development Instrument (EDI) data and the identification of high need areas, location of schools and identification of current child care sites and spaces within schools and potential for expansion (see Appendix A). Home day care spaces were not included in the analysis due both to the difficulty of determining exact number of spaces, but more importantly, the need to follow the criteria of the Ministry’s Schools First policy. The City further recognizes that population numbers may have changed, but that the 2001 Census provides the most reliable data.

Analysis of the data revealed each neighbourhood as either a first or second priority status. First priority neighbourhoods were defined as those with specific child care needs as a result of high need areas as per EDI and a high child to spaces ratio. Second priority neighbourhoods might also have high need areas as per EDI results, but would not be targeted for development unless child care providers would agree to the relocation of existing space from stand alone centres to schools. It was agreed that sites currently under development for September 2006 that do not meet priority criteria would continue to be supported, but that child care providers and school boards would be advised that future development would only be supported in the high need areas.

| <b>Table 3.1 Summary Report Neighbourhood Child Care Needs</b> |                 |  |                   |  |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Priority #1  | Neighbourhood   | High Need Area Identified by EDI               | Type of Spaces    | Language                               |
|  | Valley East     | Hanmer   | Infant<br>Alt JK  | English<br>French                      |
|  | New Sudbury     | Census Tract 17.02                             | Infant<br>Alt JK  | English<br>French                      |
|  | Minnow Lake     | Census Tract 6                                 | Infant<br>Toddler | English<br>French<br>English<br>French |
|  | Nickel Centre   | Falconbridge                                   | Infant            | English                                |
|  | West End        | Census Tract 2 and 3 (Gatchell, Copper Street) | Infant<br>Alt JK  | English                                |
|  | Rayside-Balfour | Chelmsford                                     | Alt JK            | English                                |
| Priority #2  |                 |  |                   |  |

|  |              |        |        |         |
|--|--------------|--------|--------|---------|
|  | Walden       |        | Infant | English |
|  | Onaping      | Levack | Infant | English |
|  | Copper Cliff |        | Infant | English |

Also included in this exercise was the examination of the location of current Francophone and aboriginal spaces.

According to the 2001 census, 28.2% of the population of the City of Greater Sudbury reported their mother tongue as French. Since that time Children Services has worked with child care providers to increase the ratio of french language spaces to be reflective of the community. In 2003, 15% or 304 of the City’s 2015 licensed child care spaces were in Francophone centres. There are currently 913 Francophone spaces, representing 25% of the total 3599 spaces. Children Services remains committed to maintaining or increasing the ratio of licensed Francophone child care spaces relative to the population of each neighbourhood. Current analysis of the distribution of licensed Francophone spaces confirms the need for more infant spaces in most neighbourhoods and toddler spaces in Minnow Lake.

These care opportunities for Francophone children do not include recreational child care programming offered by Le Carrefour Francophone known as Le Tremplin. This program exists in 15 schools throughout Greater Sudbury and offers before and after school care. Work is ongoing with Le Carrefour Francophone to license their programming for children under the age of 6.

The October 2005 Child Care Plan identified a total “Aboriginal Identity” population of 7065 with a 0-4 population of 420 children (2001 Census). EDI results indicate the Aboriginal population represents 2 to 6% of the population in each neighbourhood. Licensed day cares do offer cultural programming as part of their curriculum. At this time, however, within the City of Greater Sudbury there is only one licensed program dedicated to aboriginal children. Shki Biimaadizwin Kinoomaadwin (New Generation Life Teachings) serves 10 children (18 months to school age) one afternoon a week. This program operates out of Jubilee Heritage Family Resources in partnership with the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre. It serves children from various areas throughout the City of Greater Sudbury. A preschool learning program, it is considered under Best Start, even though it is not located in a school. The City may review expansion of this program once other priorities are examined.

- d) Children with special needs

Special needs funds are being increased using a formula of \$275 per new space created.

- e) Allocation of funds to ELCC Areas

At this time the City is still reviewing and may request approval from the Regional Office at a later date.

f) Issues/Pressures

1. Silo funding does not work for the community or for families. Funding needs to be consolidated to ensure families who qualify for subsidy can access it and not be restricted because their child does not fit into a Best Start space. Currently a strain exists on centre base and school age funding and the potential for wait lists exists. And since families do not want to have their children at separate sites we need to find solutions that work for families .
2. Without changes to the current needs test process and/or the DNA, families who could benefit ie. post secondary students, families unable to contribute to rrsp's or resp's, those with irregular work schedules, continue to find it difficult to be able to either qualify or find child care that meets their needs.
3. Centres continue to find it difficult to recruit and retain qualified staff, especially Francophone.
4. Managing and supervising several sites continues to be challenging for organizations who do not have the infrastructure to do so.
5. Recruiting and retaining parents to be involved at the Board level is difficult given the time commitment and expertise required from parents at that level.
6. Transportation to and from rural and remote school based child care especially for those programs who offer Alt JK continues to be identified as a pressure and an issue for parents and providers.
7. Viability of smaller in-school programs are at risks especially if the population cannot support a full day care operation in school.
8. Viability for long standing centre based programs not connected to any schools remains a challenge for the community to protect all child care spaces, not only those created in schools.
9. Funding child care in a piece meal approach rather than on a base funding formula of some kind continues to create fear and anxiety for all concerned.

**PART B: BEST START 2006/07 TEMPLATE**  
 (non-demonstration sites only)

| <b>CMSM/DSSAB:</b>  | <b>Sudbury</b>     |
|---|--------------------|
| 2006/07 Total Best Start Allocation:  | <u>\$5,350,399</u> |
| 2006/07 Best Start Program Funding:   | <u>\$5,187,790</u> |
| 2006/07 Best Start Wage Improvement:  | <u>\$127,543</u>   |
| 2006/07 Best Start Planning:  | <u>\$35,066</u>    |
| Total # of new spaces created under Best Start:   | <u>692</u>         |
| Of the total spaces created,<br>the # of new Aboriginal spaces created under Best Start:  | <u>10</u>          |
| Of the total spaces created,<br>the # of new Francophone spaces created under Best Start: | <u>175</u>         |

**PHASE 1 - PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**FEE SUBSIDIES - PROJECTED**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Average Monthly Number of Children 0-4 Years of Age Served | <u>200</u>         |
| Average Monthly Number of JK/SK Children Served            | <u>50</u>          |
| Expenditure  | <u>\$4,064,815</u> |

**SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCING - PROJECTED**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| # of New FTEs                              | <u>5</u>         |
| Additional Children Receiving SNR Services | <u>75</u>        |
| Expenditure                                | <u>\$172,975</u> |

**WAGE SUBSIDIES - PROJECTED**

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| New FTEs Staff Non-Profit | <u>78</u>        |
| New FTEs Staff Commercial | <u>2</u>         |
| Expenditure               | <u>\$500,000</u> |

**ADMINISTRATION - PROJECTED**

Expenditure \$450,000

**WAGE IMPROVEMENT - PROJECTED**

Total FTEs Staff Non-Profit 275

Total FTEs Staff Commercial 50

Average % of Wage Increases Provided (where applicable) N/A

Average Dollar Increase Provided (where applicable) N/A

Expenditure \$127,543

**PLANNING - PROJECTED**

Expenditure \$35,066

**PHASE 2 - PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**SUSTAINING EARLY LEARNING AND CARE**

These Early Learning and Care areas could include training initiatives, training of staff and/or address accessibility in rural and northern areas through transportation. These areas require prior approval from the Regional Office and must be allocated within the allocation provided.

Please indicate the initiatives and expenditures and describe how they meet the objectives of Best Start with the priority of sustaining and securing child care spaces in your area.

Activity:

Expenditure:

**COMMENTS:**