

INTERIM CHILD CARE PROGRAM



TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 70-89 (4) TABLED ON MAR 14 1989
Yukon Centre, N.W.T.

1. Start-up Grants Do Not Reflect Local Costs

- start-up grant is flat rate of \$1200/space across NWT, yet more remote communities have much higher costs.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT bring forward funds from the supplementary reserve for child care to enrich start-up grants so that they reflect higher costs in more remote communities.

2. Creation of 180 New Spaces Not Enough to Meet Need

- the Government has allocated \$205,000 for the creation of 180 new child care spaces in 1989-90. (ie. 8 or 9 communities).
- yet some 20 communities are working towards establishing child care centres ie. 400 new spaces are needed.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT bring forward funds from the supplementary reserve for child care to increase the total allocation for start-up grants to allow for creation of 400 new spaces in 1989-90.

3. No Funds for Renovations

- several communities eg. Iqaluit, Rae, Norman Wells face major difficulties in locating a suitable facility, and may require financial help for major renovations. Start up funds of \$1200/space will be used for equipment and first few months of operation until centre is licensed, therefore start-up funds are not really available for major renovations.
- other existing or emerging groups will need help to bring a building up to standards set out in Child Day Care Facilities Act.
- interim program does not include capital grants, and emergency funding has not been extended into 1989-90.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT allocate funding from the supplementary reserve for child care to provide capital grants for renovation of existing or future child care facilities, to bring the facilities up to government standards under Child Day Care Facilities Act.

4. Operating Grants - Insufficient Allocation

- the Government has allocated \$443,000 to operating grants. Taking an average grant of \$7/space/day, this allocation is only sufficient for the existing 400 spaces for 8 months. With the addition of new spaces the entire allocation will be gone by October.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT bring forward funds from the supplementary reserve to increase the total allocation for operating grants.

5. User Subsidies Low at Lowest Income Levels

- even at lowest level of income scale, user subsidy is not 100%. In Example #2 of the Interim Program, none of the three families could afford to feed, clothe, and house themselves on \$800/month. Yet they would still have to pay a portion of their child care fees: \$250 or more/child in the case of Yellowknife, \$128/child in Iqaluit, and an unknown amount (\$100?) in Spence Bay.
- these people at the lower end of the income scale will still have to apply for Social Assistance, under which they are allowed up to \$25/day (\$500/month) per child for child care.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT bring forward funds from the supplementary reserve to increase the total allocation for user subsidies, so that families at the lower end of the income scale can receive greater financial assistance.

6. Accessibility

- given that there are many kindergarden and school age children whose parents are employed and who therefore are in need of child care after school.
- that many parents may work part-time, or on shift work, and require flexible child care.
- that there is a need for emergency child care.
- that parents should not be prevented from using such services because of the cost.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT broaden the Interim Child Care Program to make school-age care, part-time care, flexible care, and emergency care eligible for user subsidies, start-up funds and operating grants.

ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

7. Commitment to use Supplementary Reserve

- given the pressing need for:
 - 1) capital grants for child care centres
 - 2) enriched start-up grants
 - 3) more than 180 new child care spaces
 - 4) increased allocation for operating grants
 - 5) larger subsidies for low income earners
 - 6) inclusion of school age, part-time and emergency care under user subsidy and grant programs

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT make a commitment to bring forward \$2 million supplementary reserve for child care by October 1, 1989, even if a Federal/Territorial Cost-Sharing agreement is not concluded by that time.

8. Special Warrant to Enrich Start-up Grants

- given that start-up expenses will be higher in more remote communities.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT make use of a special warrant as of April 1, 1989 to obtain funds to enrich start-up grants for more expensive communities.

9. Special Warrant for Capital Grants for Child Care Centres

- given that existing and emerging child care centres will require funds for renovations in order to bring their facilities up to standards set out in the Child Day Care Facilities Act, so that they can be licensed.

MOTION: that the Government of the NWT make use of a special warrant as of April 1, 1989, to obtain funds so that capital grants can be made available to child care groups.