

**The Corporation of the Town of Ajax
October 20, 2025**

Motion

**Advocating for Expansion of the Canada-Wide Early Learning
and Child Care (CWELCC) Program**

Moved by: Councillor Henry
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Crawford

Whereas, the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario is set to expire on March 31, 2026; and

Whereas, CWELCC has significantly improved affordability and access to licensed child care for families in Ajax and across Ontario with fees currently capped at \$22 per day and a goal of \$10 per day by 2026; and

Whereas, in Ajax alone there are 55 child care centers enrolled in the CWELCC system, for a combined total of 3,506 child care spaces for children aged zero up to 6 years; and

Whereas, Minister of Education Paul Calandra has informed parents that additional federal funding is needed for the CWELCC agreement to meet its goal, and both levels of government are currently negotiating its renewal beyond 2026; and

Whereas, a renewed and increased federal government commitment to the CWELCC program is required to deliver on the promise of \$10 per day child care beyond March 31, 2026. The provincial government has reaffirmed its dedication to maintaining its share of funding, ensuring that affordable, high-quality child care remains accessible to families across the province; and

Whereas, without adequate funding, Ontario families could see fees rise above \$22/day starting April 1, 2026, and continue to rise thereafter; and

Whereas, simply maintaining the CWELCC program at its current level is insufficient. For instance, the child care system in Durham Region can presently accommodate approximately 35% of the eligible population, leaving many families on waitlists for as long as three years to secure a child care space. With our population expected to grow significantly in the coming years, expanding the program is essential to meet increasing demand and ensure all families have access to affordable, high-quality child care; and

Whereas, the current CWELCC funding model, while transformative, requires long-term federal and provincial commitments to ensure its sustainability and to support the creation of additional not-for-profit child care spaces in underserved areas; and

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That Ajax Council formally advocate to the Governments of Canada and Ontario and Regional Municipality of Durham for the renewal and expansion of the CWELCC agreement beyond March 31, 2026, with a focus on:
 - Long-term, stable, and adequate funding commitments;
 - Increased investment in early childhood educator recruitment, retention, and compensation;
 - Prioritization of child care space creation in high-growth and underserved communities such as Westney Heights in Ajax;
 - Ensuring a minimum of 70% of new spaces are in not-for-profit or public child care settings; and
2. That a copy of this motion be sent to Patty Hajdu, federal Minister of Jobs and Families, Anna Gainey, federal Secretary of State (Children and Youth), Sean Fraser, Federal Minister of justice, Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Paul Calandra, provincial Minister of Education, Jennifer McKelvie, MP for Ajax, Rob Cerjanec MPP for Ajax, John Henry, Regional Municipality of Durham Chair, and all lower tier Durham Region municipal councils.