

December 11, 2019

Mr. David Cribbs
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Pelham
20 Pelham Town Square
Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0

Via email: dcribbs@pelham.ca

Dear David,

As of January 1, 2018, Niagara Region Children's Services became responsible for the local planning and administration of EarlyON Child and Family Centres, on behalf of the province. Niagara Region Children's Services has been charged to locally implement the provincial vision of an integrated and coordinated early years system that supports early learning and healthy child development.

At the initiation of this new responsibility, as a short-term strategy, Niagara Region Children's Services entered into temporary service agreements with existing service providers to allow for a period of local planning, analysis and review of provincial policy. Over the last two years, there has been ongoing planning, data collection, and community engagement with key stakeholders (children and their parents and caregivers, service providers, and staff) to inform a procurement framework and process.

As a step toward implementing the provincial mandate, Niagara Region Children's Services issued a call for proposals to help identify service providers that would support the transformation of the existing EarlyON service system aligned with the new Ministry of Education expectations and provided within provincial budget allocations.


With the recent conclusion of the procurement process, Niagara Region is pleased to announce that Port CARES is the successful proponent who will provide EarlyON service delivery in the Town of Pelham. Port CARES is a not-for-profit agency that has been providing quality early years programming for over 20 years. Niagara Region is confident that children, parents and caregivers will be pleased with the quality and variety of programming, and friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Niagara Region would like to thank you and your staff for working so diligently with the Port CARES staff and our Children's Services team to help identify a central location to best serve Pelham families, reflective of system planning objectives and stakeholder feedback (e.g. located on a bus route, universal accessibility, proximity to neighbourhoods with young children, large open space for play activities, support

increased participation). Should Pelham Town Council approve the proposed Old Town Hall location for the Pelham EarlyON Centre, the team believes this location would support the objectives of the Early Years system transformation set by the province and informed by local stakeholder feedback.

Niagara Region looks forward to working with the newly confirmed EarlyON services providers, and community stakeholders to ensure EarlyON Child and Family Centres continue to provide quality programs and services that meet community needs, and support the healthy development and learning of children across Niagara.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adrienne Jugley".

Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE
Commissioner