



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services Suzanne Malette, Children's Program Supervisor
Date:	September 21, 2011
Re:	Elevator for the Hub run by Our Children Our Future at École St-Joseph in Espanola

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Program Planning Committee considers assisting Our Children Our Future (OCOF) with an upgrade to an elevator from a lift in the rebuilt school in École St. Joseph, Espanola. This will make access to the Hub more secure for all children and families attending Hub activities.

THAT the Program Planning Committee direct staff to provide Our Children Our Future with one time funding in the amount of \$50,000 that would come from the 2011 Childcare Budget under Program Accessibility - Best Start Ongoing which is funded by the province at 100%.

REPORT

Purpose

In June of 2009, Premier McGuinty had asked Dr. Charles Pascal to submit a report on how to best implement the Early Learning vision. In his report "With Our Best Future in Mind" Dr. Pascal made a series of 20 recommendations.

Recommendation #4 states:

"The Early Years Policy Framework should also guide the transformation of programming for Ontario's youngest learners. Municipal authorities, with the necessary resources, should be mandated to plan, develop, support, and monitor an integrated network of Best Start Child and Family Centres (including Best Start HUBS) providing families with all the different services located in one place to make it a one stop shop location."

Dr Pascal also recommends that the preferred location for the Best Start Hub is in schools. Presently the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network has opened 4 hubs in the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB jurisdiction. All but one are located in schools.

LaCloche:	Sacred Heart School in Espanola
Manitoulin:	Little Current Public School
Sudbury East:	École St-Antoine in Noëlville
Sudbury North:	Chapleau Child Care Centre

Each one of them offers outreach programs to best service the families in our jurisdiction. OCOF, located in Sacred Heart School in Espanola, is the lead for the Hub in the LaCloche area and they are also offering Francophone Hub services at École St-Joseph for the francophone families in the LaCloche area.

In 2010, the Conseil Scolaire Catholique du Nouvel Ontario (CSCNO) decided to rebuild École St-Joseph in Espanola. The DSB has a service contract with the existing Child Care Centre in that school, "Le Centre de la Petite Enfance d'Espanola, All Star Children Services". The daycare also offers Hub activities through Our Children Our Future for Francophone families in Espanola. In the rebuilding of the school, the school board is going to renovate the existing gymnasium to only accommodate the existing Child Care Centre and a space for the Hub. In doing so, they will be adding a second floor for the Hub. The school is willing to install a lift for the parents attending the Hub that will be on the second floor. The cost of the lift is \$95,000 and is being funded by the School Board. It was suggested to OCOF that, for an additional \$50,000 they would be able to install an elevator for the parents and children attending Hub activities as opposed to them using a lift. An elevator would certainly be more secure and large enough to accommodate a parent using a baby stroller to access the second floor to attend Hub activities.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Ensure the expansion of Hub services in the school and to support Dr Charles Pascal's recommendation to have Hub services located in Schools.
- Ensure that the Hub provider (OCOF) and the school work collaboratively together in order to provide one stop shop services to Francophone families in the LaCloche area.
- Financially support the need to have an elevator for the families using the Hub on a regular basis.

Background

In November 2010, the Conseil Scolaire Catholique du Nouvel Ontario (CSCNO) met with all parties involved, All Star Children Services, Our Children Our Future (OCOF), Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) and the DSB to work out a plan for the new Childcare and Hub space. At that time it was recommended to have the Hub on the first floor. Once the architect looked at the plans he advised everyone that space is a real issue and as such, he was not able to incorporate the suggestion to have the

Hub on the main floor as this created real circulation issues. Everyone met again in June of 2011 to go over the plans and at that point OCOF was advised of the cost of a lift which is \$95,000 (funded by the School Board) and that for an extra \$50,000 they could install an elevator instead of a lift.

Objectives

The objective of these recommendations is to ensure a safe access to the Hub location in the newly built school. Dr Charles Pascal's recommendations in *With Our Best Future in Mind* also adds "Hubs located in schools open to their neighborhoods and capable of providing families with opportunities for children's learning, care, health, culture, arts and recreation from the prenatal period through to adolescence" would ensure that parents take advantage of the one-stop service model in Best Start Child and Family Centres.

Funding Parameters

This one-time funding in the amount of \$50,000 would come from the Childcare Budget under Program Accessibility - Best Start Ongoing which is funded by the province at 100%.

Conclusion

Since the CSCNO has indicated that they will be renovating the gymnasium to only accommodate the Child Care Centre and the Hub in that school, this indicates that there are no plans to ever need to move the Hub or the daycare to another location. Adding an elevator instead of a lift will also ensure the safety of the families attending the Hub activities that will happen during the daytime, evenings and on weekends.