

Media Release

Providers named for 98 new licensed child care spaces in Grimsby

NIAGARA REGION – July 19, 2006 – Two not-for-profit child care providers with a history of service delivery in the town of Grimsby have been selected to operate the new child care centres that will be located within Nelles and Grand Avenue schools.

The town had previously been identified as in need of additional licensed child care spaces and the two District School Board of Niagara elementary schools had been named as the chosen sites.

Lakeview Community Daycare will operate 49 spaces at Grand Avenue School and Kidzdome Preschool will operate 49 spaces at Nelles School. Each centre will have spaces for 10 infants, 15 toddlers and 24 pre-school aged children.

Lakeview has been a fixture in the Grimsby community for 24 years, operating a child care centre adjacent to Lakeview School. The new Grand Avenue centre will be ready to serve Grimsby families on September 1, 2007.

Kidzdome has been operating in Grimsby for eight years and will be fully operational at the Nelles site by January 1, 2007.

Both new centres will offer care between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each centre will also offer subsidized care for eligible families.

The 98 spaces have been created through a \$2.7 million investment by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Regional Municipality of Niagara as part of the Best Start plan. Best Start is an initiative of the Ministry which involves a massive expansion of quality and affordable child care and investments in every child's healthy early development. Its goal is the integration of programs and services across Ministries to better serve children and families.

Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services commented, "Choosing well established, locally operated programs for this expansion of child care

signals, not only a significant commitment to the children and families of Grimsby but, also confidence in the local operators who are familiar with the community."

He added," This is a continuation of our commitment to the 'schools first' policy, where families can access child care and education under the same roof and demonstrates our strong partnership between Community Services and the school board."

"It's wonderful that parents will soon have access to quality licensed child care facilities that link directly to our school programs at Nelles and Grand Avenue," said Warren Hoshizaki, District School Board of Niagara Director of Education. "These child care programs will help set the foundation for a transition to school that is smooth, seamless, and successful. Our partnerships in the community help strengthen the support for parents in the community and build a brighter future for Niagara's youth."

Licensed non-profit service providers were invited to submit a proposal to operate the new spaces with existing service providers in close proximity given preferred priority.

Children's Services, Community Services of the Regional Municipality of Niagara has responsibility for the planning and service system management of the child care system in Niagara.

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