

Staff Report

Report From: Bonnie Hastings, Childcare Services Manager

Meeting Date: November 12, 2024

Subject: Removal of Half-Day Childcare Option at the Goderich Municipal Childcare Centre

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council receive this report for information;

And That Council authorize the removal of the half-day childcare option at the Goderich Municipal Childcare Centre.

Report Summary:

To request Council's approval to remove the half-day childcare option at the Goderich Municipal Childcare Centre due to minimal registration of half-day childcare. Therefore, moving forward, full-day spaces will be the only option available for parents at the Centre.

Background/Analysis:

The Centre is participating in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system. This system has provided a decrease in fees for parents and families. Due to the fee decrease, many parents have chosen to register their children for full-days instead of half-days. Currently, there are three (3) families that use the half-day program.

With the large waitlist that the Centre currently carries, parents are accessing any availability that the Centre can offer.

The CWELCC system is a five-year plan that supports quality, accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity within the childcare sector. The CWELCC program is being implemented in stages to make childcare more accessible and affordable. Part of the program to improve access to childcare is through mandated fee reductions every year, reaching an average fee of \$10.00/day by 2025-2026. The Centre participates in the CWELCC program and as a result must comply with a \$22.00 fee cap beginning January 1, 2025.

The Town of Goderich 2024 fees are as follows:

Infant Full-Day	Infant Half-Day	Toddler Full-Day	Toddler Half-Day	Preschool Full-Day	Preschool Half-Day
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\$27.76	\$22.64	\$25.05	\$18.43	\$22.64	\$16.54
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Linkages:

- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #2: Welcoming and Caring Community
- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #3: Strong Local Economy

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

There will be no significant financial impact associated with the proposed change due to the limited use of half-days.

Consulted With: Deanna Hastie, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

Approved By: Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk