



December 9, 2014

Dear Mr. Watson,

As I am sure you are aware, a childcare centre in Ottawa recently declared bankruptcy, as it was unable to cope with the multitude of financial problems that started when the Federal Government, under the guise of cost cutting, unilaterally cancelled its rent subsidy.

The non-profit Tupper Tots childcare centre was created in 1994, and was originally located in the federally owned Charles Tupper Building. It was opened in response to the government's Workplace Daycare Policy, which sought to provide decent workplace childcare for employees of the Federal Government and of Crown corporations. The intent was to help balance the often contrasting demands placed upon working parents.

Tupper Tots was able to offer high quality child care due to an initial investment by the Federal Government, as well as ongoing free rent. This allowed the centre to maintain reasonable fees. Until 2010, at least 70 per cent of the parents using the centre were Federal Government employees. In addition, many parents working at Canada Post headquarters also were able to benefit from use of the centre.

There is no debate that parents continue to need quality child care services. Indeed, a significant number of women with children under the age of six are currently working. The existing patchwork of child care services fails to meet the needs of today's parents. Quality, regulated child care is both rare (20%), and also extremely expensive.

I understand that the city was unable to grant Tupper Tots childcare additional subsidies at this time, and that also had a role to play in the closure. The parents from this childcare centre, continue to scramble as they look at all available options. Together, we would all prefer to have the Tupper Tots childcare center back in its original form. I have

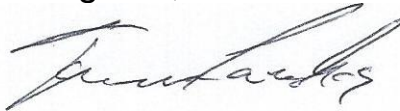


sent a request to Canada Post regarding the possibility of finding available real estate at headquarters, and am still awaiting an answer.

In summary, the closure continues to have a significant and detrimental impact upon parents, children, our community, our members, and the employees who worked at the center. I am imploring the Capital City of Ottawa to look into finding possible solutions of bringing back the childcare center in its original form, and/or meet with us in order to discuss a corrective plan of action.

I look forward to have an opportunity to collaborate with you in the near future.

Best regards,



National President

