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Date July 6, 2022 **Report No.** 2022-386

To Chair and Members
Social Services Committee

From Marlene Miranda
General Manager, Community Services and Social Development

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item for Consideration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.0 Topic Building Our Community from the Kids Up: EarlyON Update [Financial Impact: None]

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT staff report 2022-386 Building Our Community from the Kids Up: EarlyON Update”, BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT Council APPROVE the non-competitive award to Six Nations of the Grand River for EarlyON Child and Family Centre drop-in and virtual programs for an upset limit not to exceed \$386,000 (exclusive of HST); and
- C. THAT the Director of Community Programs and Social Development and the Manager of Purchasing BE AUTHORIZED to execute a contract as required with Six Nations of the Grand River; and
- D. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of the final resolution and staff report to the County of Brant.

4.0 Executive Summary

EarlyON Child and Family Centres (EarlyONs) offer free drop-in and virtual programs for children 0-6 and their caregivers, with a goal of supporting school readiness and social connections.

The City of Brantford is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for the City of Brantford and the County of Brant. The CMSM provides funding from the Ministry of Education to three local EarlyON service providers: 1) Child and Family Services of Grand Erie (previously Brant Family and Children's Services) 2) Community Living Brant and 3) Six Nations of the Grand River.

In February 2022, Council approved the Child Care and Early Years 10-year plan, *Building Our Community from the Kids Up* (Report 2022-20). The plan outlines a 10-year vision for supporting young children and their families, including the expansion of inclusive, high quality EarlyON programs.

This report outlines significant milestones for this vision, including the planned expansion to the Cainsville Community Centre, the TB Costain Community Centre, Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, Bell Homestead 'pop ups' and a commitment to developing a dedicated Paris location.

The City's partnership with Six Nations of the Grand River is an important part of this vision, providing inclusive programming at both the Family Gatherings drop-in site (Harmony Square), and the delivery of Indigenous-led programming at all EarlyON locations.

The service agreement with Six Nations of the Grand River expires December 31, 2022. Staff is seeking Council approval to maintain the current funding and program arrangements through a non-competitive contract award.

5.0 Purpose and Overview

This report provides an update regarding Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre programs (EarlyONs), and recommends the continuation of the current funding and program agreement with Six Nations of the Grand River.

6.0 Background

EarlyON Child and Family programs increase school readiness, and connect families to both informal supports (ex. other parents) and formal supports (ex. Lansdowne Children's Centre, Brant County Health Unit).

In-person EarlyON services include:

- Reading, storytelling, songs, and games

- Access to local professionals and agencies (ex. public health nurse)
- Connections with other families and young children
- Information about available community services
- Participation in Indigenous-led programs and activities

Virtual services include:

- Virtual parent and child programs
- Virtual parent chats
- Telephone and email support
- EarlyON YouTube Channel videos
- EarlyON Calendar and Facebook page

EarlyON videos remain available on the EarlyON YouTube channel or at Brantford.ca/childrensservices.

In a typical year, EarlyONs will receive over 27,000 in-person participants, 11,000 online participants and provide over 22,000 hours of outreach support.

6.1 EarlyON Locations

Site name	Neighbourhood	Geography
1. Bell Lane	West Brant	City
2. Bellview Public School	Eagle Place	City
3. *Boys and Girls Club	West Brant	City
4. Branlyn-Notre Dame School	Banbury	City
5. Brantford Public Library	Core	City
6. Burford Community Centre	Burford	County
7. *Burford Public Library	Burford	County
8. ****Cainsville Community Centre	Cainsville	County
9. **Christ the King School	Holmedale	City
10. Eastdale Gardens	East Ward	City
11. Family Resource Centre	Core	City
12. Harmony Square	Core	City
13. Holy Trinity Anglican Church	St. George	County
14. *John Noble Home	West Brant	City
15. *King George School	East Ward	City
16. *Madonna Della Libera	Eagle Place	City
17. Major Ballachey School	East Ward	City
18. Margot's Place	Core	City
19. Mount Pleasant Optimist Club	Mount Pleasant	County
20. North Ward School	Paris North	County
21. Northland Gardens	North end	City
22. *Paris Public Library	Paris South	County

23. ****Paris Dedicated Site	Paris	County
24. Prince Charles School	Terrace Hill	City
25. **Princess Elizabeth School	Eagle Place	City
26. Riverside Gardens	Eagle Place	City
27. Scotland Community Centre	Scotland / Oakland	County
28. *St George Library	St. George	County
29. *St James Anglican Church	Paris South	County
30. St. Gabriel School	West Brant	City
31. *** TB Costain Community Centre	Holmedale	City
32. Tollgate Technological Skills Centre	North End	City
33. *** Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre	North End	City

* Site not yet re-opened post pandemic.

** Closing June 2022

*** Opening September 2022

****Proposed

7.0 Corporate Policy Context

City of Brantford Council Priorities:

#2) Social services support is provided to Brantford residents in need

#4) There is high trust in the City through demonstrated progress in taxpayer affordability and value for money.

Building Our Community from the Kids Up: 10-year Children's Services Plan

- EarlyON Child and Family Centres to continue to offer flexible programming that meets the needs of families (e.g. time, type, location). 5,400 children will be accessing EarlyONs annually by 2032
- Align EarlyON Child and Family Centres with City of Brantford and County of Brant community centres
- County of Brant to source space for a dedicated Paris EarlyON location
- Optimize technology to ensure up-to-date information is accessible through the City of Brantford as a "one-stop" website for resources related to child care, child care fee subsidy, child care operator information, and EarlyON child and Family Centre programming
- Further utilize the "Your Guide", and social media such as Facebook pages, "EarlyON Brantford Brant" and "Your Guide Family Resources for Brantford and Brant" to promote EarlyON programming to families

- EarlyON Child and Family Centres to work with the Brantford Immigration Partnership to promote EarlyON supports to populations of diverse cultures and EarlyON to increase targeted outreach activities to the immigrant / newcomer population
- Further embed Indigenous programming into EarlyON programming at all sites
- Consider geographic areas of family risk / vulnerability in any review of EarlyON programming and location
- Work with the EarlyON Child and Family Centre providers to develop and implement a Quality Assurance model by 2024
- Maximize EarlyON resources through the use of consistent hours and locations

City of Brantford's Economic Recovery Action Plan Initiative:

7.c.) Support Newcomers and Immigrants to the community through new training opportunities and local service supports.

County of Brant Strategic Priorities:

#5) Offer welcoming and inclusive programs, services, facilities, opportunities and events to enhance every resident's quality of life.

8.0 Input from Other Sources

City of Brantford, Legal

City of Brantford, Purchasing

City of Brantford Communications and Community Engagement

County of Brant Community and Protective Services

9.0 Analysis

9.1 Supporting the Vision

Building Our Community from the Kids Up emphasizes the importance of having a range of inclusive, welcoming and culturally diverse EarlyON programs.

Charles Pascal, as Special Advisor on Early Learning, noted in a report to the Premier of Ontario the benefits of a 'hub model' of service for young children. The report envisioned programs for children and their families that included linkages to community resources such as libraries, recreation, and community centres, to name a few.¹

Alignment of EarlyON programs with other sectors such as culture, history, recreation and sport provide opportunities for increased community engagement, increased health outcomes and school readiness.

Examples of this inclusion, cross-promotion and planned co-location include:

- Planned co-locations at Cainsville Community Centre, the TB Costain Community Centre, Wayne Gretzky Sport Centre, Bell Homestead 'pop ups' and a commitment to a dedicated Paris location.
- Intergenerational shared sites, such as the program at John Noble Home, increase the health and well-being of both young and older participants and reduce social isolation²
- Young Minds Book Club Initiative to distribute two Indigenous books (1) "When We Are Kind" and (2) "We Give Our Thanks" to all licensed child care and EarlyON programs in support of National Indigenous History Month and Multiculturalism Day.
- Gahwajiya:de' Detenatgwa'ta' - Family Gatherings are EarlyON Child and Family programs that reflect the Haudenosaunee culture and incorporate Mohawk and Cayuga languages. Through the use of EarlyON Cultural Facilitators, indigenous led programming is offered to all EarlyON and child care sites in Brantford and Brant County, and these culture-based supports are available to all child serving agencies.

9.2 Partnership with Six Nations of the Grand River

¹ Pascal, C. (2009). With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario. Government of Ontario. Retrieved June 3 2022 from, https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson/UserFiles/File/Resources_Topics/With_Our_Best_Future_In_Mind_-_Charles_Pascal.pdf

² Butts, D.M. and Jarrot, S.E. (2021). The Power of Proximity: Co-Locating Childcare and Eldercare Programs. Stanford Social Innovation Review. Retrieved June 3 2022 from, https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_power_of_proximity_co_locating_childcare_and_eldercare_programs

In 2018, Six Nations became the Indigenous EarlyON provider through a competitive RFP process. This agreement is set to end December 31, 2022.

In January 2021, Six Nations secured a store front location at Harmony Square, to be their base location for Family Gatherings (EarlyON) programming, while continuing to rotate through other EarlyON programs and locations.

These Indigenous informed early learning programs are reaching thousands of children each year through experiential learning, language, games, videos, music and food that are available to all families.

As a provider of EarlyON and child care programs on Six Nations and in the City of Brantford and County of Brant, Six Nations is able to provide a bridge to families throughout the three geographic communities.

Six Nations Family Gatherings works in partnership with Child and Family Services of Grand Erie and Community Living Brant to share EarlyON locations, resources, and knowledge to best support local families. Children and their parents benefit from a cohesive system of EarlyONs, where supports are consistent and Indigenous-led programs regularly occur at all EarlyON sites.

Moving forward, Six Nations will be a regular facilitator in the new EarlyON programs at Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre and TB Costain as well as offering regularly scheduled programming at their Harmony Square location and “popping up” at other locations such as the Bell Homestead.

With the approval of Council, staff will proceed with a non-competitive award to Six Nations of the Grand River, to continue to build on existing community expertise, relationships and successful practices already in place.

10.0 Financial Implications

There are no direct impacts to the municipal budget. Six Nations of the Grand River currently receives \$364,898 annually for Indigenous led EarlyON programs.

With Council approval of the non-competitive recommendation, the City of Brantford will enter into ongoing agreements for the purpose of facilitating Indigenous-led EarlyON, pending ongoing 100% Ministry of Education funding.

11.0 Climate and Environmental Implications

There are no climate or environmental implications.

12.0 Conclusion

Building Our Community from the Kids Up represents the strategic vision of the Children Services and Early Years Division. In support of the vision, this report highlights the planned expansion of EarlyON programs to align with sport, recreation and cultural programs in the City of Brantford and County of Brant. This report further recommends a continuation of the funding and program agreement with Six Nations of the Grand River in the delivery of Indigenous-led EarlyON programs.



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Community Services and Community Development

Prepared By:

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Attachments (if applicable)

N/A

Copy to:

N/A

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☐ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☐ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☐ no