

COMMUNICATION 137135

Received From: Jennifer Barry, Strategic Operations Administrator
Heather Bigras, Family & Programs Administrator

Addressed To: Committee of the Whole

Date: March 10, 2026

Topic: 2026 Childcare Fee Increase

SUMMARY:

This report proposes a 2.1% fee increase for Carleton Place Childcare Services for eligible School-Age groups that do not fall under the Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care Agreement (CWELCC).

Children who are 0-5 years of age fall under CWELCC do not qualify for an increase as rates are frozen as stipulated by the government.

BACKGROUND:

This report proposes a fee increase for eligible School-Age programs. If the fees are approved by Council, all parents and guardians of the eligible age groups will be notified about the rate changes which are recommended to take effect on June 1, 2026. This increase is in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and is necessary to ensure we can continue to meet the growing demands of childcare operations while maintaining the standard of care that families expect from us.

COMMENT:

The increase in fees reflects the rise in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index. This ensures that our fees remain aligned with the broader economic environment, helping us manage inflationary pressures.

A significant portion of the fee increase will go towards covering rising staffing costs. In order to attract and retain qualified educators, the Town has been committed to offering competitive salaries, which have become increasingly necessary to keep pace with the competitive labour market for these positions. The increase will also address rising operational costs, including supplies, food, facility maintenance, and other essential services that support the quality of care we provide. These costs are essential to keeping our programs safe, clean, and effective for all children.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

We understand that any increase in fees can be concerning. However, we have worked hard to keep the increase as modest as possible while continuing to deliver the high standard of care children and families deserve. The 2.1% increase in childcare fees is a necessary step to maintain our ability to provide excellent care and support the growing needs of our childcare facilities. It will see an estimated increase in revenues of \$19,200.00 over a one-year period. Please see attached proposed fee schedule.

The last fee review for the School-Age programs at Carleton Place Childcare Services occurred in 2025.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve increasing the School-Age Childcare fees by 2.1% effective June 1, 2026 as outlined in the report by the Childcare Administrators dated March 10, 2026; and

THAT the necessary by-law to enact the fees be forwarded to Council for approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Draft Summary of Proposed Changes to the Carleton Place Childcare Fees**