

THE LITTLE PEOPLES COMMUNITY CENTRE OF SUDBURY
250 Elm Street West, Main Floor
Sudbury, Ontario

August 17, 1972.

Executive Director
Canadian Council on Social Development
55 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa 3, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

The Little Peoples Community Centre of Sudbury is a recently formed day care cooperative in the City of Sudbury. It provides full day care for some twenty children, two to five years old, at a cost of \$80.00 per month per child. We are licenced under the Day Nurseries Act of the Province of Ontario, and are a charitable organization under the Federal Income Tax Act.

The day care centre is the first and only parent-controlled cooperative in the City of Sudbury. It is based upon the understanding that the parents of the children who go to the day care centre should determine crucial matters like policy, staffing and fees, and that they should participate as much as possible in the program of the centre. We also saw the centre as a real "little people's community centre": a place where other neighbourhood children and families could get together and have fun and learn. It has been developing increasingly in that direction since it opened July 10th. Almost all the participants are working people from the immediate neighbourhood, and we have found that working together in the centre has done much to develop a spirit of cooperation amongst us all.

The Little Peoples Community Centre was initiated through the hard work and determination of ten women, mostly working mothers, who had come together to get day care for their children and others like themselves. After seven months of looking for a place to establish a centre, we managed to rent the main floor of a very old house on Elm Street West. Upon renting the place, we set out to renovate it to meet the exacting standards set by the Day Nurseries Branch. We had no capital whatsoever when we started, and have had to rely entirely upon donations from unions, businesses, and individuals to buy equipment, renovating materials and to pay initial expenses. We have had a lot of support from the community.

We believe that the Day Care Centre is an extremely important event in this northern city..... because our philosophy of child care differs so much from the other two centres which are establishing themselves here. Firstly, we see ourselves as a community centre, a place for the extension and development of family life through cooperation. Secondly, because we have been able so far to prove that people working together can develop these kinds of facilities without massive government assistance, or large amounts of individual financing. We have very high hopes for the centre once it is safely on its feet. We want to open it to the neighbourhood more on evenings and weekends. A number of talented people

have offered to help with children's theatre, puppet shows, craft classes and athletics. We would like to extend these activities beyond the paying participants. We want to develop more discussions and activities involving the whole fifty to sixty people whose lives are directly affected by the centre.

To make these things possible we are going to need some financial assistance from outside the fees. Very few working people in the city can afford any more than \$80.00 a month for child care, and to raise our fees would cause a corresponding decrease in attendance. These fees cover our operating costs, but not the initial capital outlay. Nor do they cover expense for the first few months when we had less than twenty children enrolled. It is for this reason that we are writing to the Canadian Council On Social Development. Would it be possible for your organization to give us some financial assistance, however small to help us over this hurdle? We have found that we are not eligible for any of the usual grants to day nurseries as we are a privately operated non-profit organization. We have enclosed a budget with this letter to give you an idea of our financial position.

If you should need further information, we will be glad to help. You may call us at 675-8591 or write us at the above address. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Chairman,
Little Peoples Community Centre.

Copies of this letter or a variation to go to:

Executive Director
Ontario Welfare Council
22 Davidville Avenue
Toronto 295, Ontario

Vanier Institute of the Family
170 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa 4, Ontario

The United Church of Canada
Board of Evangelism and Social Service
85 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto 7, Ontario

Canadian Mothercraft Society
32 Heath St W
Toronto 7, Ontario

Mrs. H. C. Hindmarsh
President
Atkinson Charitable Foundation
80 King Street West
Toronto 1, Ontario

Secretary
Laidlaw Foundation
Suite 204
2141 Jane Street
Downsview, Ontario

Secretary
McLean Foundation
95 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto 7, Ontario

Community Development Branch
Department of the Provincial Secretary and Citizenship
Hearst Block, Parliament Buildings
Queen's Park
Toronto 5, Ontario

Citizenship Branch
Department of the Secretary of State
110 Argyle Street
Room 109
Ottawa, Ontario