

SUPPORT US

1. WE ARE A GROUP OF CONCERNED WOMEN WHO WANT TO SEE A COOPERATIVE DAY-CARE CENTRE IN THE MINE MILL HALL. OUR GROUP INCLUDES MINER'S WIVES, WORKING WOMEN, SINGLE PARENTS, AND A MEMBER OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY.
2. WE WANT A DAY-CARE CENTRE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PEOPLE LIKE OURSELVES. PREFERENCE FOR ENROLMENT IN THE CENTRE WILL GO TO MEMBERS OF LOCAL 598.
3. WE SEE DAY-CARE AS:
 - FOR CHILDREN--A PLACE THEY CAN GET TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHILDREN AND LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH OTHER PEOPLE BIG AND SMALL.
 - FOR SINGLE PARENTS AND WORKING-WOMEN--AN INEXPENSIVE AND RELIABLE WAY TO HAVE YOUR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER.
 - FOR FAMILIES--A CHANCE TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RAISING YOUR CHILDREN WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
 - FOR THE UNION--A CHANCE TO TURN THE MINE MILL HALL INTO A FAMILY SOCIAL CENTRE. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME IN ONTARIO THAT A UNION HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN DAY-CARE.
4. THE DAY-CARE COMMITTEE HAS TO DATE:
 1. APPROACHED THE MINE MILL PROPERTY COMMITTEE
 2. SOUGHT LICENSING FROM THE DAY NURSERIES BRANCH
 3. OBTAINED AN ESTIMATE OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS
 4. APPLIED FOR A LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION
5. FOR THE DAY-CARE CENTRE WE NEED ONE PERMANENT ROOM. THE ONLY PART OF THE REGENT STREET HALL THAT COULD BE RENOVATED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IS A PORTION OF THE BEVERAGE ROOM ON THE LADIES & ESCORTS SIDE. CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE IT A SEPARATE ROOM WITH ITS OWN ENTRANCE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE THE USE OF THE BANQUET ROOM FOR CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE DURING THE DAY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY & USE OF THE KITCHEN FOR PREPARING HOT MEALS.

THE DAY-CARE CENTRE WOULD BE MANAGED BY A COOPERATIVE MADE UP OF THE PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN GO THERE AND WOULD BE STAFFED JOINTLY BY VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINED STAFF PEOPLE.

WE WILL BE APPROACHING THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN FEBRUARY TO ASK FOR YOUR APPROVAL OF THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, ETC., BRING THEM TO THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING OR CONTACT SUE LACHAPPELLE AT THE MINE MILL HALL OR GRAEME GARRASCO AT 673-7261.

BRING THIS HOME FOR YOUR FAMILY TO READ

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

July 12, 1972

Mr. Ron Hutton
Northern Ontario Coordinator
Opportunities for Youth
Second Floor, 110 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Hutton:

The Little Peoples Community Centre of Sudbury is a recently formed daycare cooperative in the City of Sudbury. It can provide full day care for twenty children two-five years old, at a cost of \$80.00 a month per child. We have applied for licencing under the Day Nurseries Act of the Province of Ontario. To date we meet all the regulations set out in the Act and have been approved by the fire and health inspectors of the City. We have also applied for incorporation, and have an engrossment date of July 4.

The day care centre is the first and only daycare cooperative in the City. It was formed through the determination and hard work of ten women, mostly working mothers, who had come together to get daycare for their children and others like themselves. We all felt strongly that the parents of the children who went to the centre should determine policy, staffing, and fees, and should participate as much as possible in the program of the centre. After seven months of looking for a place to establish such a centre, we managed to rent the main floor of a very solid old house on Elm Street West. We rented it as soon as we found out it was available, and worried about financing afterwards. We really had no alternative, as an appropriate place had turned out to be the greatest obstacle to the cooperative.

Upon renting the place, we set out to renovate it to meet the exacting standards set out by day nurseries. All the labour was volunteer, and we managed to raise almost everything we needed through donations from the community. We had help from about fifty different unions, businesses and individuals, including such diverse sources as Woolco, the Sudbury Separate School Board, and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. Together they made it possible for us to open on July 10.

However, we have found the July opening to be financially very awkward. Our rent forced us to open immediately, but by this time, most working parents had already hired their summer high school student to babysit, or had alternate arrangements of some kind for the holidays. As a result we have had very few children enrolled for the summer. On the other hand our expenses are quite high. We have to hire a fully qualified supervisor for the centre (Ontario law), and we have to meet our rent, hydro and other costs. At present all our energies are going into fundraising and staffing the centre. The supervisor we want to hire has been advised that she will have to try and

manage without a wage for awhile, as we have no money to pay her. We will have no energy left to do the organizing work necessary to get more children enrolled.

From the way our registrations have been going, it does not look like we will have any trouble meeting our quota by mid-September. We already have more than ten registrations for that time. However, we will fold before then, unless we can somehow raise money to cover two months operating costs. We have already had to borrow \$500.00 which we have no real way of repaying. If it would be possible for Opportunities for Youth to fund two salaries here for two months, until say, the 15 September, then we could at least continue to operate. The two people we would hire are the two people we already have commitments to: Bonny Korolow, a graduate in Early Childhood Education, and Judy Williams, a student in Early Childhood Education at Cambrian. We would hire Bonny as supervisor and Judy as the organizer. Both women are under twenty-five and are presently on unemployment insurance. Both have been involved in the cooperative since its beginning. We had expected to pay them around \$125. a week.

We have high hopes for the centre once it is on its feet. We would like to see it become a real children's community centre and we plan to have it open to the neighbourhood on weekends and evenings. A number of talented people have offered to help with children's theatre, puppet shows, craft classes and athletics during these hours. A leaflet which we took around the immediate neighbourhood a week ago brought large numbers of people out to the Open House. But many of them cannot afford daycare, or have children too small to go. We felt this kind of program could meet their needs too.

Thank you for your interest. If it is impossible for OFY to fund this project, we would really appreciate any suggestions for other sources of support.

If you would like any further information on the centre, I may be reached at 684-9100 during the day or at 673-5427 after 5:30.

Yours truly,

JK/jd

Joan Kuyek