

May 25, 2020

Dear MCRC Families,

As you know, many of MCRC's programs have been closed since March 16, 2020 as a result of the provincial government's emergency orders. Last week, they announced that licensed child care programs may be permitted to reopen as part of stage 2 in the overall re-opening of the province with strict guidelines and protocols in place. At this time, we have not been given a specific date as to when stage 2 will be implemented or what those specific guidelines and protocols will be.

In addition, the province and region have recently made changes to child care funding that has had a significant impact on our funding structure. We have worked hard over the past weeks to make sure that staff are supported, and programs continue to operate, albeit much differently. Our Educators have worked hard to keep in touch with families, offer resources and activity ideas, and engage in ongoing professional learning opportunities. However, as we consider the ongoing closures, the significant changes to funding, and the loss of revenue generated from parent fees, we have had to make some difficult decisions to ensure the ongoing viability of the organization.

As a result, we have furloughed staff who are directly supported by our self-generated revenue programs and/or the impacted funding streams, including those working in our licensed child care programs. Furloughed staff will remain employed by MCRC and will receive 75% of their wages without expectation of completing their work hours. It is my hope that we will be able to recall the furloughed staff as soon as financially possible so that we are ready and prepared for when child care programs are permitted to re-open. We greatly appreciate the hard work and dedication of our staff during these unprecedented times, and we will continue to advocate for our sector on both a federal and provincial level.

As we receive updates on the re-opening of child care, we will continue to keep you informed and updated. The latest MCRC Covid-19 information can be found on our website at <https://mrcr.on.ca/covid19/>

We are invested in your family's well-being and want our community to be reminded that we are strongest when we work together. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you or your family require any support during this time. In the meantime, please continue to practice physical distancing to protect your family and our community as a whole.

Stay home and stay healthy,



Rebecca Barrows-Vrankulj
Executive Director