



Region of Waterloo

Creating Culturally Responsive Child Care at 30 Christopher Drive

Indigenous Child Care and Family Centre

Creating Culturally Responsive Child Care at 30 Christopher Drive

- The Region is prioritizing the development of new child care spaces in communities that need them and prioritizing populations that have been traditionally underserved: children who live with low-income, have special needs, are Indigenous, or are from diverse communities.
- Staff has been engaging with Indigenous organizations and individuals around the needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis families in our community related to child care.
- Staff held multiple engagement sessions and had meetings with Indigenous community members, leaders and organizations and learned about the need for culturally responsive child care that reflects cultural identity, history and ways of being.



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- In April 2024 Regional Council approved staff to explore interest in non-profit organizations to create culturally responsive child care at 30 Christopher Drive and 104 Stirling Avenue.
- Healing of the Seven Generations a local non-profit Indigenous organization expressed interest in creating Waterloo Region's first Indigenous-led child care program at 30 Christopher Drive.

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- The program will provide up to 65 child care spaces for children 0 to 4 years old.
- Indigenous children will be prioritized and the programming will be holistic, accessible, culturally responsive to the needs of Indigenous children and families in our community.
- 30 Christopher Drive, Cambridge is located in a priority neighbourhood with low access to child care.
- The building is currently unoccupied and in good repair and will require only minor renovations to bring into compliance with Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

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- Staff is seeking approval to enter into a lease agreement for 30 Christopher Drive, Cambridge with the Healing of the Seven Generations. The term of the lease will be for an initial five-year term with an option to renew for two additional five-year terms.
- Indigenous-led child care will bring tremendous benefits to our community and demonstrate the Region's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #3, #5, and #12, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Article 14 (2-3), 21 (2), and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Calls to Justice 2.3, 12.3, 12.12, 16.4, 16.21.