



Public Service Alliance of Canada, Local 901

Alan Harrison,
Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)
74 University Avenue
Queen's University
Kingston, ON CAN K7L 3N6

Dear Provost Harrison

Re: Closure of Queen's Day Care Services

PSAC 901 represents Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows and Post-Doctoral Fellows at Queen's. Many of our members are disappointed and frustrated about the closure of the Queen's Day Care Centre located at 169 Union Street earlier this year. Affordable, quality day care services in Kingston are already difficult to find, especially for people who have limited budgets, as many of our members do. The day care services provided at 169 Union Street offered access to childcare services that many of our members took advantage of. The closure of this space has placed some of our members, and other members of the Queen's community, under undue hardship because of the extreme difficulty there is in finding quality and cost-efficient childcare service near Queen's.

Following fire code regulations is absolutely necessary since the safety of children is of the utmost importance. However, with the closure of the services at 169 Union Street, childcare space has been severely curtailed at a time when there are already long waiting lists and few openings in the local day cares that still exist. Lack of access to affordable childcare presents a barrier to participation in the university community. This barrier is disproportionately faced by equity seeking groups, particularly women. Many PSAC 901 members believe that the current situation cannot continue because this puts undue hardship on our members and members of the Queen's community. We respectfully call on the Provost's Office to seek ways in which the University can:

1. Resume the provision of safe and cost-efficient childcare services for children and parents affected by the closure of 169 Union Street, by either reinstating childcare services in a new location as quickly as possible or funding the necessary repairs at the 169 Union Street location.
2. Establish a policy to subsidize childcare for parents that have been forced to pay for higher cost childcare services elsewhere as a result of the closure of the 169 Union Street day care.
3. In a timely manner, contact PSAC 901 with further options that the Administration has considered for providing childcare services. We would like to be included in these discussions as closure of 169 Union Street has negatively impacted some of our members and their children.



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We hope the Administration chooses to reinstate services in a safe environment in the immediate future. In order for Queen's to maintain its reputation as a world-class educational institution, childcare is a necessity for maintaining quality of life. In light of the response of members on the importance of childcare at Queen's, and impact on the greater Queen's Community, PSAC 901 has struck a childcare committee to discuss finding solutions to this important matter. We would be grateful for your response before the end of the Fall term.

Regards,

Craig Berggold
President
PSAC 901

On behalf of the PSAC 901 Executive, Stewards' Council, and Social Justice Committee.

CC: Diane Beauchemin (QUFA), Rob Renaud (CUPE 254), Pat Cummings (CUPE 229), CUPE 1302, Kelly Orser Smith (USW 2010/2010-01); Myrna Horton (QUSA); ONA 67; Kevin Weiner (SGPS), and Allison Williams (AMS).