



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

To / Destinataire Mayor and Members of Council

From / Expéditeur Clara Freire
General Manager, Community and
Social Services Department

Subject / Objet Investigation – Municipal Child Care Centre Date: September 12, 2023

The purpose of this memo is to advise members of Council that the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa will be investigating an allegation of abuse that involves the City of Ottawa's Dr. Ernest Couture Child Care Centre.

The allegation of abuse, which the City has been advised is sexual in nature, was shared directly with the Ottawa Police Service and the City has not been provided with any further details. The City is fully cooperating with the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa on this matter and remains committed to ensuring the ongoing safety of children at the Centre. The City is following all appropriate labour relations policies and the employee in question was immediately removed and is currently on investigatory leave.

Communications have been provided to staff and family members today, which included a direct City contact for additional support. The City is also fulfilling its legislative duty by submitting a Serious Occurrence Report with the Ministry of Education. The City remains committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of all children in its care and takes abuse allegations very seriously.

We will await the results of the investigation and advise on further actions.

Sincerely,

Clara Freire
General Manager
Community and Social Services

cc. Wendy Stephanson, City Manager
Senior Leadership Team
Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health, Ottawa Public Health
Community and Social Services Departmental Leadership Team