



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

To / Destinataire Mayor and Members of Council File/N° de fichier: _____

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

Subject / Objet Outcome of the Investigation – Date: September 29, 2023
Municipal Child Care Centre

This memorandum serves as an update to the [Tuesday, September 12 communication](#) to the Mayor and Members of Council and to provide an update on the investigation by the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service, related to an allegation of abuse that involved the Dr. Ernest Couture Child Care Centre.

The allegation of abuse was made directly to the Ottawa Police Service and the City was not provided with any other details. On Tuesday, September 26, they informed the City that their investigation concluded and the allegation of abuse was deemed unfounded. In addition, the City was advised late in the day on Thursday, September 28 that the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa had closed their investigation and the allegation was deemed not verified.

Throughout this investigation, the City fully cooperated with both the Children's Aid Society and the Ottawa Police Service on this matter. The City also follows strict policies and procedures, employee code of conduct and Ministry licensing requirements to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all children in its care. The City continues to follow all appropriate labour relations policies and as a result of the unfounded allegations, the employee in question is no longer on investigatory leave.

We recognize this investigatory process has been difficult on those impacted and communications have been provided to staff and family members today, which includes direct City contacts for additional questions or support. In addition, the Employee Assistance Program and Community and Social Services Departmental Peer Support Network resources have been made available to staff.

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