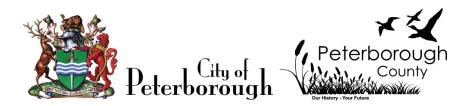
# City of Peterborough, Children's Services Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement



# **Final Report Submitted to:**

City of Peterborough, Children's Services
Submitted by Gary Sandor, President, HSC Vision Group
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## **Executive Summary**

The Needs Assessment of the Ontario Early Years system completed on behalf of the City of Peterborough, Children's Services was conducted from January to May 2017, with this final report produced in July 2017. The consultant received enthusiastic cooperation from the main players in the system, particularly the City of Peterborough (Children's Services) and the current providers of early years' programs and services, including the Peterborough Family Resource Centre (PFRC) and the Old Millbrook School Family Centre (OMSFC). The Needs Assessment is in response to the Ministry of Education's intention to transform Ministry-funded child and family programs into an integrated, cohesive system of services and supports for children ages 0 to 6 and their parents and caregivers, to be known as Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCs).

The Needs Assessment revealed a well-functioning and robust early years system, characterized by very high levels of praise for the service providers and strong satisfaction for the programs and services they offered. Nevertheless, a broad stakeholder consultation approach, involving hundreds of participants brought to light some concerns with the present system. These concerns did not speak to a dysfunctional system, but rather to improvements that could make a very good system even better. Some of the concerns are perhaps due to changing times and changing demographics and these have come to light in our review of new 2016 census data, changes in population and relatively new Early Development Instrument (EDI - 2015) data from the school boards that point to areas of the City and County where more vulnerable children (as defined by the EDI) are currently living.

These changes, and some of the concerns associated with them, identified areas of the City and County that appear to be underserved. In this report, the consultants call for closer examination of potential OEYCFC hubs in the north and south west areas of the city. Some of these potential locations align well with vulnerable school neighbourhoods and potential space availabilities, as identified by local school boards. The changing populations and child vulnerabilities were also identified in the County where we renewed the call for hubs, while continuing to explore the need for mobile rural programs and services, and recommended maintaining Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) hubs in Lakefield, Norwood and Millbrook, but called for a re-examination of the OEYC in Apsley and a potential hub in the township of Otonabee-South Monaghan.

The other concerns that were identified related not to satisfaction with the current programs and services, but just wanting more of it. Of particular concern, the following times and content areas were noted frequently:

- The number of drop-ins and the number of hours they were open;
- The need for summer, after-school and March Break openings; and
- More parenting education and parenting workshops.

There were two other areas that the consultants identified in which further review was needed. One area centered on the amount of toddler and infant hours of programming offered by PFRC. While the consultant noted that there are not best practice guidelines for what that ratio should be, offering four times as many infant hours as opposed to toddler hours seems to be imbalanced, even though early engagement strategies with families is seen to be very beneficial. The other area identified includes the ratio of drop-in hours to universal program hours to targeted program hours. The Needs Assessment gathered information on two other neighbouring areas (Northumberland and the City of Kawartha Lakes) and found their programming and drop-in numbers to be much higher than in Peterborough and their ratios were also quite different. While the consultant found no research or effective practice guidelines to determine the ideal ratio, it is recommended that the City of Peterborough and its new OEYCFC providers explore this issue more thoroughly.

Finally, the new OEYCFC must continue to build on current communication efforts and partnership possibilities to enhance these areas even more. Evidence from the survey, focus groups and key informant interviews showed that current OEYC providers are good in these areas, but there was still a call for better and more effective communication, particularly with program participants and potential participants, and for more partnership opportunities with schools, child care centres and other service providers in the early years system, particularly with Indigenous, Francophone and newcomer stakeholders. The major recommendations offered by the consultant are presented below:

**RECOMMENDATION (1):** As noted throughout the Needs Assessment, the new OEYCFC must explore the potential for offering more of the same drop-ins and programming. Stakeholders are very satisfied with current programming, but are looking for more and more of it.

**RECOMMENDATION (2):** OEYCFC programs should be focused in the geographic areas that include a large vulnerability among its young children, a large total number of children aged 0 to 6 and population growth in order to have the greatest potential impact. Using high-to-moderate vulnerabilities along with high-to-moderate 0 to 6 child population and child population growth, the following areas of the city should be examined for whether new or additional OEYCFC programs and services are needed:

- 1. South East
- 2. Chemong
- 3. Downtown
- 4. South East Clonsilla
- 5. South West

**RECOMMENDATION (3):** The City of Peterborough should keep the OEYCFCs at the Antrim and Otonabee Valley Family Hubs; examine other possible locations in the areas of Chemong and South West/South East Clonsilla; and review the placement of the St. John Family Hub in the South End area.

**RECOMMENDATION (4):** The City of Peterborough should continue to have hubs in Millbrook, Lakefield and Norwood, and continue to assess the viability of mobile services in more remote areas. At the same time, it should examine the need for an OEYCFC in Apsley, due to its small population (though it has higher vulnerabilities, and therefore an OEYCFC may be warranted).

**RECOMMENDATION (5):** The City of Peterborough should examine having an OEYCFC in the township of Otonabee-South Monaghan due to its moderate developmental vulnerabilities and child population size, as well as its high child population growth.

**RECOMMENDATION (6):** The City of Peterborough should examine how the OEYCFCs can deliver additional programs and services, particularly in the summer, but also over March Break.

## 1.0 Background

In 2013, the Ministry of Education released the *Ontario Early Years Policy Framework* to outline the vision that Ontario's children and families are well supported by an early years system that is high quality, seamless, and accessible for children and their families. In February 2016 the Ministry announced its intention to transform Ministry-funded child and family programs into an increasingly integrated, cohesive system of services and supports for children ages 0 to 6 and their parents and caregivers known as Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCs). Beginning in 2018, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) will be responsible for the local management of OEYCFCs as part of their responsibility for the service system management of child care and other human services. Guided by principles of inclusivity, community, and creating positive welcoming environments for children and families, the OEYCFCs will offer programs and services for children ages 0 to 6 and their caregivers, including playgroups, information workshops for parents, and referrals to specialized services.

OEYCFCs must be designed and delivered to achieve the following objectives:

- Parents and caregivers have access to high quality services that support them in their role as children's first teachers, enhance their well-being, and enrich their knowledge about early learning and development.
- Children have access to play and inquiry-based learning opportunities and experience positive developmental health and well-being.
- Parents and caregivers have opportunities to strengthen their relationships with their children.
- Francophone children and families have access to French language programs and gain enhanced knowledge about language and identity acquisition.
- Indigenous children and families have access to culturally responsive programming.
- Parents and caregivers are provided with timely, relevant and current information about community and specialized services.
- Local service providers collaborate and integrate services to meet community needs in an efficient and accessible way.

OEYCFCs are intended to be great places for adults and children 0 to 6 years of age to drop-in, meet, share, play and find friendly support and information. The vision for OEYCFCs includes welcoming staff that provide fun, interactive activities for families and children to enjoy and learn together. These activities should set the stage for lifelong learning, and the programs are free and open to everyone with children 0 to 6 years of age.

Currently, in the Peterborough area (both the City and County), the Peterborough Family Resource Centre (PFRC), along with the Old Millbrook School Family Centre (OMSFC) and the

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North Hastings Children's Services (NHCS), are the providers of Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) programs and services and have been for many years. There has been a change in boundaries initiated by the Ministry of Education that will affect the governance and funding of these programs. In the past, the electoral ridings in the area dictated which Municipalities oversaw the OEYC system. Hence, the Ministry of Education had the funding and governance relationship with PFRC for its City of Peterborough and its Lakefield and Norwood Family Hubs, while the City of Kawartha Lakes oversaw the NHCS for its Apsley hub and the OMSFC for its Millbrook hub. In the newly-transformed system, the City of Peterborough will have jurisdiction over all these locations.

PFRC, a non-profit organization, provides early learning and literacy programs for parents, caregivers, and young children, as well as providing services that support the development of parenting skills and knowledge. An additional service goal for PFRC is to increase the coordination and integration of early years services in the community. They currently have three urban Family Hubs: Antrim (located just north of Downtown, in the North Central area); Otonabee Valley (located in the South East area); and St. John (located in the South End area). There are also two Family Hubs located in the County in Lakefield and Norwood.

The Antrim Family Hub also serves as the administrative headquarters of PFRC. The other four hubs are all co-located inside of "host" schools. These partnerships with schools have greatly benefitted children, families and caregivers along with school personnel and in some cases, child care facilities that also share the school space. Peterborough has had a history of cooperation and planning for young children and currently utilizes the Peterborough Planning Table for Children and Youth (PPTCY).

The OMSFC, which operates the OEYC in Millbrook, was incorporated in 2001, and is a non-profit agency dedicated to the care, nurturing, and well-being of children. The centre takes a community-directed approach to providing accessible programs, services, and resources that are aimed at meeting the needs of children and families living in its community.

The NHCS operates the OEYC in Apsley and offers a wide range of programs and services including parent/child early learning programs, parent education and early literacy services.

#### 2.0 The Needs Assessment

The activities that are reflected in this report focused on developing a comprehensive needs assessment for the proposed OEYCFC system. The HSC Vision Group partnered closely with the City of Peterborough, its Children's Services program and key stakeholders from the Peterborough area, to conduct the Needs Assessment and undertake widespread stakeholder engagement and consultation. The next section of the report describes an overview of the Needs Assessment.

#### 2.1 Overview

In response to the Ministry of Education's Planning Guidelines for Service System Managers (released in July 2016) and a subsequent explanation (Appendix A to those Guidelines distributed in April 2017) of how to address the initial community plans for the new OEYCFC system, this report describes how the needs assessment was conducted, including the wide variety of methods used to gather in-depth information about the current early years' system.

A range of sources were used to gather information on the current state of OEYCs in the City and County of Peterborough as well as look at a preferred future state for the new OEYCFCs, expected to be in place for January 2018. The following sections of the report describe the multiple approaches, data sources and the key stakeholders that were involved in collecting a large amount of information related to OEYCs and OEYCFCs. To help the reader navigate the report more easily, a glossary is provided in Appendix A.

#### 2.2 Multiple Approaches and Sources / Engagement Strategy

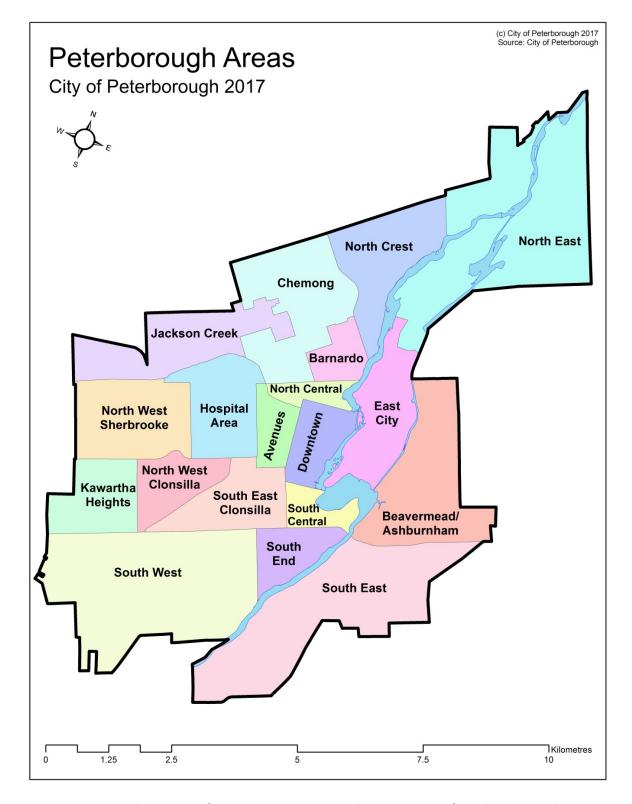
The approach taken during the Needs Assessment was to undertake a multi-pronged strategy to collect both qualitative and quantitative information and data from both local sources (i.e. parents and caregivers, key community stakeholders, and early years providers) as well as broader sources of information such as Statistics Canada Census data and Ministry of Education Early Development Instrument (EDI) data. The stakeholder engagement strategy employed throughout the Needs Assessment was extensive and comprehensive. At the outset of the Needs Assessment, the consultant hired by the City of Peterborough to conduct the Needs Assessment, met with a Steering Committee consisting of City of Peterborough representatives and representatives from the local OEYC to develop a thorough stakeholder engagement and information-gathering plan. The details of this plan are included in Appendix B.

In all of these information-gathering activities, each of them was preceded by an e-mail, poster or some other type of "broadcast" that informed stakeholders about the activities that were about to occur, their purpose and how it would fit into the overall planning process for the transformation to OEYCFCs in January 2018.

#### 2.3 Approach to Data Gathering for the Needs Assessment

In addition to the Stakeholder Engagement activities described above, the Needs Assessment also included a large range of data gathering processes, described in Appendix C. The extensive information gathered from these methodologies is presented in detail in the following sections of this Needs Assessment report.

For the purpose of this report, boundaries and names are attached to certain areas of the City of Peterborough. Since there are no official neighbourhoods in the city, Census Tracts are used as a convenient division of data. These areas were created by Statistics Canada in conjunction with a committee of local specialists based on population; therefore there is a general consistency in the population of each city area. For the purpose of this report, the names were developed by the consultant and the Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC). For the county, township boundaries and names were used for the division of data. The following map shows the names and geographic locations of the city areas. **See Figure 1**:



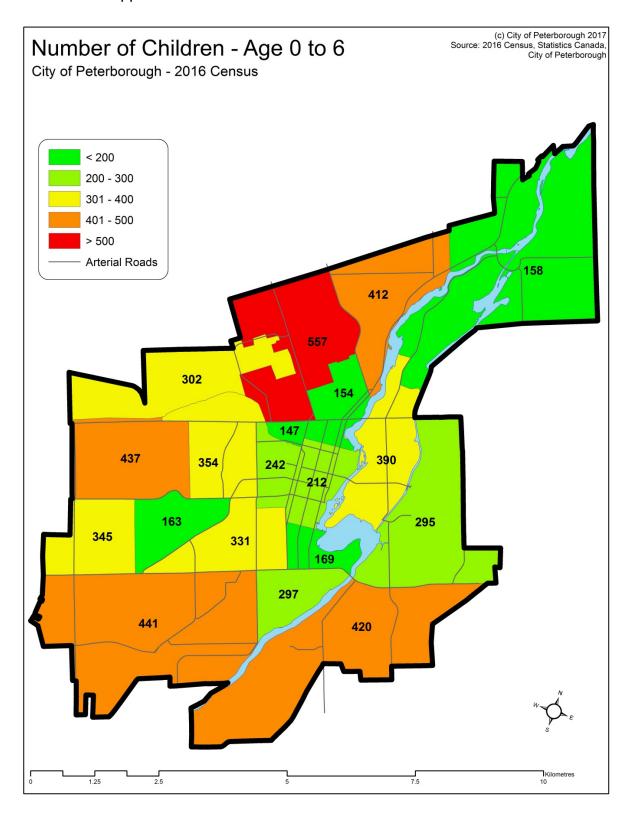
A map showing the locations of the current OEYCs in the city can be found in Appendix D and a similar map for the county can be found in Appendix E.

### 3.0 Key Learnings from the Needs Assessment

The findings from the Needs Assessment emerged through both <u>quantitative data</u> from the online survey, census data and the EDI and the Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS), as well as from <u>qualitative data</u> from the online survey, focus groups, key informant interviews and informal discussions held during the pop-ups at various locations. These findings are presented below:

#### 3.1 Child Population - City of Peterborough

The map below shows where the largest numbers of children who are 0 to 6 years of age live in the City of Peterborough. **See Figure 2**:

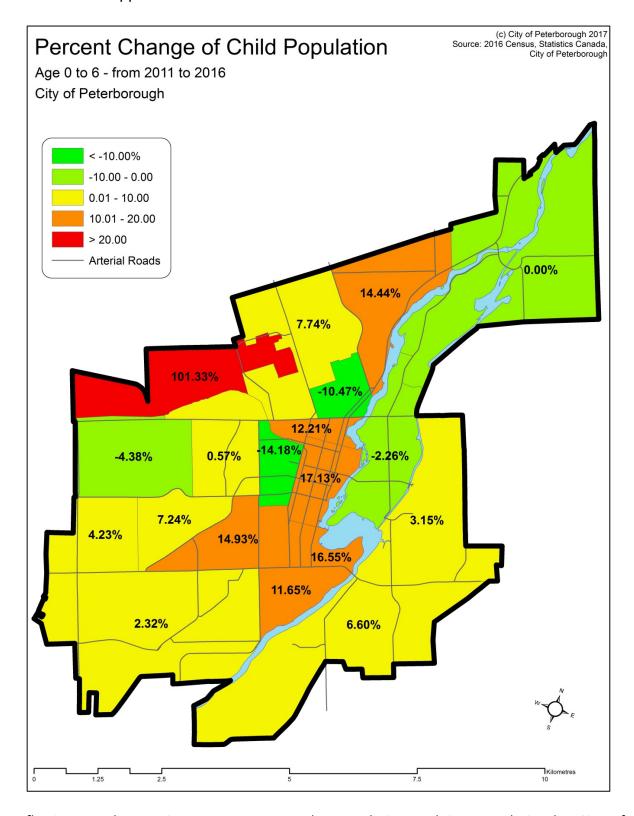


The red and orange areas indicate the areas with the greatest child population. The map shows that the greatest number of young children live in Chemong and North Crest in the north part of the City, in North West Sherbrooke in the west portion, and in South West and South East in the

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south end of Peterborough. The areas with the smallest number of children are mostly found in the downtown and North East areas.

In addition to the information provided in the previous population map, the following map shows the changes in population since the last census in 2011. The red and orange areas on the map indicate the areas with the largest percent growth in child population. Growth is largest in Jackson Creek, North Crest, North Central, Downtown, South Central, South East Clonsilla, and South End, with some reductions in North West Sherbrooke, Avenues, Barnardo, and East City. **See Figure 3**:



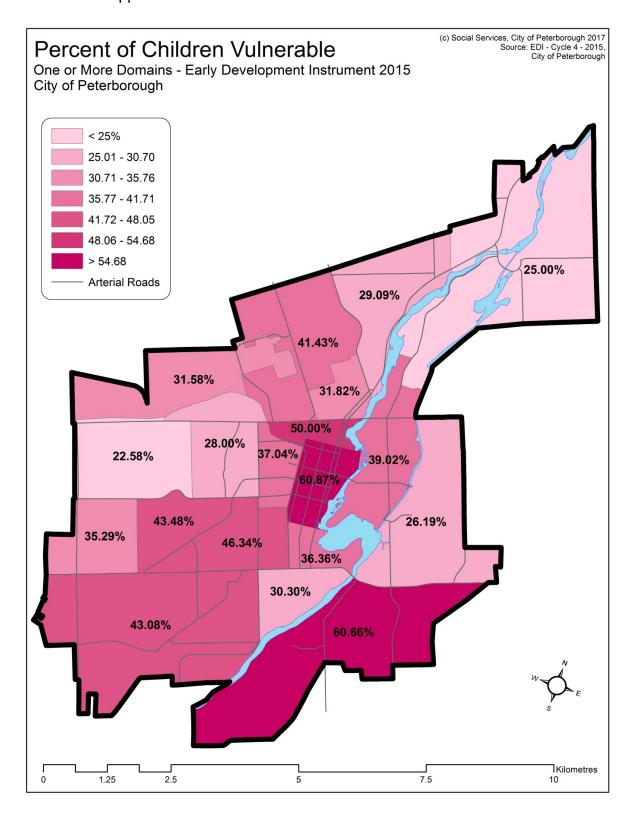
Reflecting on the previous two maps on the population and its growth in the City of Peterborough, we note a few observations about the current OEYC locations at the <u>Antrim</u> Family Hub in the North Central area, the <u>Otonabee Valley</u> Family Hub in the South East area,

and the <u>St. John</u> Family Hub in the South End area (a map showing the current OEYC locations in the city can be found in Appendix D):

- The north end of the City the areas of Jackson Creek, Chemong and North Crest show both large numbers of children 0 to 6 and high growth in the number of children 0 to 6 since 2011. However, currently, there is no OEYC in any of these high population/high growth areas.
- The central part of the City the Antrim Family Hub is located within close proximity of downtown with some driving access to the north parts of the city. With respect to the growth in population, the Antrim Family Hub is fairly well-placed.
- The south end of the City the Otonabee Valley Family Hub is particularly well-placed for the large 0 to 6 population in the South East area. Although the St. John Family Hub has moderate growth, it is only in the "middle of the pack" when it comes to overall population. A location farther west in the South West or South East Clonsilla areas would address this concern.

#### 3.2 Children with Identified Developmental Vulnerabilities - City of Peterborough

The map on the following page uses 2015 EDI data to depict which areas of the City of Peterborough have the greatest concentration of young children that are seen to be vulnerable in one or more developmental domains. These domains include Physical Health & Well-Being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language & Cognitive Development and Communication & General Knowledge. The map shows that the Downtown (60.87%) and South East (60.66%) areas of Peterborough have the greatest percentage of vulnerable young children. On the map, dark pink indicates areas with high child vulnerabilities. **See Figure 4:** 



#### 3.3 Priority Areas - City of Peterborough

The areas with high vulnerabilities in combination with large child populations are of the most concern to be served by OEYCFCs. The chart below represents a cross-tabulation of vulnerable populations, child population and recent growth in the City of Peterborough (in section 3.6 below, we conduct the same analysis for the County). The consultants assigned a weighting to each of these categories to develop a ranking of the areas in the city that can be seen as priority areas for the transformed OEYCFCs. For each area in the city the percentage of vulnerable children, along with the child population and the child population growth rates are each given a ranked value from 1 to 5 for each category. Vulnerability is seen as the most important factor and was given a weighting of 5, with population seen as next in importance and given a weighting of 4, while growth is given a weighting of 1.

We then used the rankings and weightings to provide a weighted score for each area of the city and then ranked them from highest to lowest priority. The South East area received the highest weighted score at 4.4, while North East was assigned the lowest weighted score at 1.1.

Rank	Area in the City	EDI - % vulnerable	Ranked % vulnerable	Child Pop'n 2016	Ranked Child Pop'n	% growth 2011- 2016	Ranked growth	Weighting 5-4-1
1	South East	61%	5	420	4	7%	3	4.4
2	Chemong	41%	3	557	5	8%	3	3.8
3	Downtown	61%	5	212	2	12%	4	3.7
4	South East Clonsilla	46%	4	331	3	15%	4	3.6
5	South West	43%	3	441	4	2%	3	3.4
6	East City	39%	3	390	3	-2%	2	2.9
7	North Central	50%	4	147	1	12%	4	2.8
8	Jackson Creek	32%	2	302	3	101%	5	2.7
9	Kawartha Heights	35%	2	345	3	4%	3	2.5
10	North Crest	29%	1	412	4	14%	4	2.5
11	Avenues	37%	3	242	2	-14%	1	2.4
12	North West Sherbrooke	23%	1	437	4	-4%	2	2.3
13	South Central	36%	3	169	1	17%	4	2.3
14	North West Clonsilla	43%	3	163	1	7%	3	2.2
15	South End	30%	2	297	2	17%	4	2.2
16	Hospital Area	28%	1	354	3	1%	3	2
17	Beavermead / Ashburnham	26%	1	295	2	3%	3	1.6
18	Barnardo	32%	2	154	1	-10%	1	1.5
19	North East	25%	1	158	1	0	2	1.1

**RECOMMENDATION (7):** OEYCFC programs should be focused in the areas that include a large vulnerability and a large total number and growth of children in order to have the greatest potential impact.

**RECOMMENDATION (8):** Using high-to-moderate vulnerabilities along with high-to-moderate 0 to 6 child population and child population growth, the following areas of the city should be examined for whether new or additional OEYCFC programs and services are needed:

- 1. South East
- 2. Chemong
- 3. Downtown
- 4. South East Clonsilla
- 5. South West

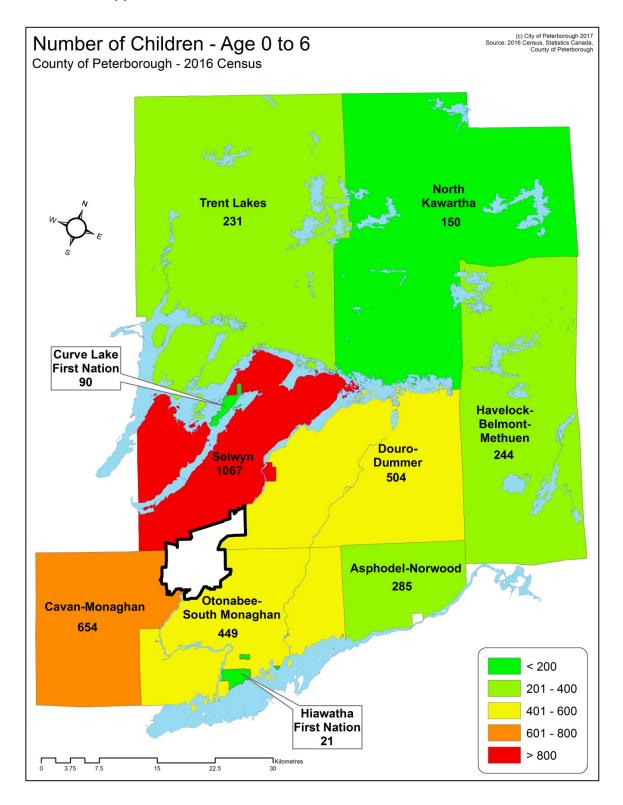
The data and maps again point to fairly good locations for the current OEYCs at the Antrim and Otonabee Valley Family Hubs. The Antrim Family Hub is located in the North Central area, which has a small population of children aged 0 to 6. So strictly speaking, it does not appear as a highneed area. However, even though the North Central area has the smallest population, it does have a high growth rate and a high vulnerability rate, plus it is within walking distance of the Downtown area. Therefore, it is well positioned. The Otonabee Valley Family Hub is in an excellent location for both child population and for vulnerability.

The current OEYC at the St. John Family Hub is appropriate for scrutiny. The South End area has a small population of children aged 0 to 6, a moderate vulnerability rating and a moderate growth rating. The neighbouring area just west of this area – the South West part of the city – has a high child population and a fairly high vulnerability rating, and should be examined for potential OFYCFC locations.

**RECOMMENDATION (9):** The City of Peterborough should keep the OEYCFCs in the Antrim and Otonabee Valley Family Hubs; examine other possible locations in the areas of Chemong and South West/South East Clonsilla; and review the placement of the St. John Family Hub in the South End area.

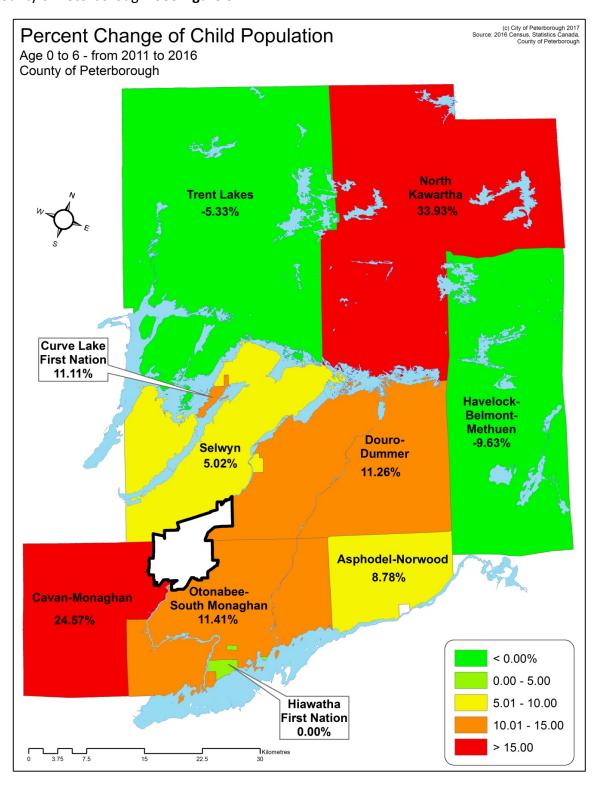
#### 3.4 Child Population - County of Peterborough

The map below shows where the largest numbers of children who are 0 to 6 years of age live in the County of Peterborough. **See Figure 5**:



The red and orange areas on the map indicate the areas with the largest child population. The map shows that the greatest number of young children live in the township of Selwyn, while Cavan-Monaghan, Douro-Dummer and Otonabee-South Monaghan have the next highest number of children.

The following map shows the change in child population since the last census in 2011 for the County of Peterborough. **See Figure 6**:



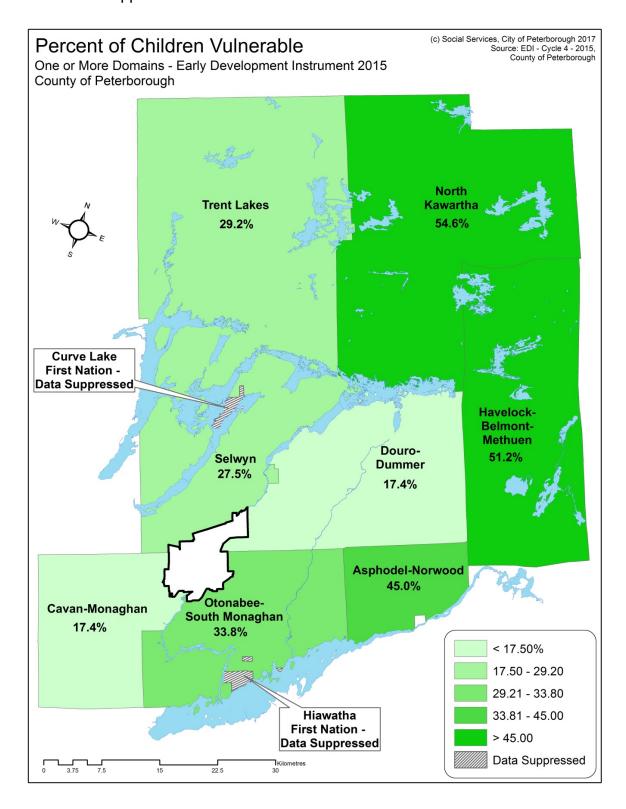
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The red and orange areas on the map indicate the townships with the largest child population growth. The greatest percent growth occurs in Cavan-Monaghan and North Kawartha, while Douro-Dummer, Otonabee-South Monaghan and Curve Lake show moderate growth.

The four current county OEYCs are located in Lakefield (in Selwyn and near Douro-Dummer), Norwood (in Asphodel-Norwood), Millbrook (in Cavan-Monaghan) and Apsley (in North Kawartha) (see map in Appendix E). The two population maps (i.e. actuals and growth) show that the OEYCs in Lakefield and Millbrook are well-positioned for both 0 to 6 population and for growth. The Lakefield Family Hub is in an area with a very large child population and moderate growth, while the Millbrook Family Centre is located in an area with high child population and very high growth. The Norwood Family Hub is located in a slightly smaller population area with moderate growth, while the OEYC in Apsley is located in an area with the smallest child population, but has the largest percent growth in the county (though this growth only represents 38 children).

#### 3.5 Children with Identified Developmental Vulnerabilities - County of Peterborough

The map below uses 2015 EDI data to depict which townships in the County of Peterborough have the greatest concentration of young children that are seen to be vulnerable in one or more developmental domains. **See Figure 7**:



#### 3.6 Priority Areas - County of Peterborough

Similar to the analysis conducted with the City of Peterborough data, the chart below represents a cross-tabulation of vulnerable populations, child population and recent growth, and uses the same

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weighting and ranking scheme to develop the areas of highest priority in the County of Peterborough.

Rank	Area in the County	EDI - % vulnerable	Ranked % vulnerable	Child Pop'n 2016	Ranked Child Pop'n	% growth 2011- 2016	Ranked growth	Weighting 5-4-1
1	North Kawartha	55%	5	150	1	34%	5	3.4
2	Havelock-Belmont-Methuen	51%	5	244	2	-10%	1	3.4
3	Selwyn	28%	2	1067	5	5%	3	3.3
4	Asphodel-Norwood	45%	4	285	2	9%	3	3.1
5	Otonabee-South Monaghan	34%	3	449	3	11%	4	3.1
6	Cavan-Monoghan	17%	1	654	4	25%	5	2.6
7	Douro-Dummer	17%	1	504	3	11%	4	2.1
8	Trent Lakes	29%	2	231	2	-5%	1	1.9
9	Curve Lake	suppressed data		90	1	11%	4	
10	Hiawatha	suppressed data		21	1	0%	2	

While North Kawartha and Havelock have the highest percentage of vulnerable children at 55% and 51% respectively, these two areas only represents a small number of children (also, Havelock has a declining 0 to 6 population). In 2011, PFRC examined population data, EDI data, socioeconomic information and their own client data and strongly believed that concentrating its services in two rural locations (i.e. Lakefield and Norwood) would best ensure the effectiveness of its services to rural families. In its 2011 study, PFRC relied on a number of previous studies, all of which supported access to regular, consistent early learning services, in neighbourhoods and communities, as the optimal model for early learning services. These studies included:

- The Early Years Study (1, 2, and 3) (1999, 2007, 2011)
- The provincial government's Best Start initiative (2005)
- The Toronto First Duty research
- With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario (2009)

PFRC's study also included research that services delivered once per month for two hours cannot be connected to desired outcomes due to the infrequency and short length of service. It also set out the high cost per hour of service related to mobile outreach services (5-6 hours of staff time for 2 hours of programming; and cost to purchase, maintain and fuel an outreach vehicle). It should also be noted that the mobile outreach generally provides only one type of program – family play to learn. The opportunities for registered programs is extremely limited – especially those for vulnerable families. Free space in small communities is usually difficult to acquire, while school boards typically provide free space (if it is available) and the ability to be located within the school has value-added benefits related to the continuum of services and the development of the

school as a broader community asset. Part of PFRCs research also showed that families who lived in more remote areas were willing to, and in fact did, travel to the hub location, particularly in Lakefield, because of the presence of strong programming at that Family Hub. The consultant has no reason to doubt the veracity of these studies and therefore agrees with the approach taken by PFRC. The only difference is that the 2018 municipal boundaries will take into account other communities such as Millbrook and Apsley, and the townships of Trent Lakes, North Kawartha, Havelock, and Cavan throughout the County of Peterborough.

**RECOMMENDATION (10):** The City of Peterborough should continue to have hubs in Millbrook, Lakefield and Norwood, and continue to assess the viability of mobile services in more remote areas. At the same time, it should examine the need for an OEYCFC in Apsley, due to its small population (though it has higher vulnerabilities, and therefore an OEYCFC may be warranted).

**RECOMMENDATION (11):** The City of Peterborough should examine having an OEYCFC in the township of Otonabee-South Monaghan due to its moderate developmental vulnerabilities and child population size, as well as its high child population growth.

#### 3.7 Existing Child and Family Programs

The chart below shows the current OEYC locations in the City and County of Peterborough, the average number of hours of OEYC programs per week, and the average number of hours for two related Federal early years' programs – the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC). The average # of hours per week includes all OEYC programs and workshops (except CPNP and CAPC programs) at each location (including those for parents, home child care providers, and other partnered and targeted workshops). The average # of hours per week represents an average week that the centre is open (i.e. it does not include summer closings for those centres that close during the summer).

Hub Location	Average # of hrs/week	Average # of hrs/week for CPNP & CAPC
PFRC - Antrim Family Hub	17.5	4
PFRC - Lakefield Family Hub	5.6	0
PFRC - Norwood Family Hub	2.9	2.5
PFRC - Otonabee Valley Family Hub	5.8	5
PFRC - St John Family Hub	5.8	5
PFRC - Other	0.9	7.5
OMSFC - Millbrook Family Centre	8.0	0
NHCS - Apsley	1.5	0

It is important to note that the Lakefield, Norwood and Otonabee Valley Family Hubs are located in, and are partnered with, the schools and school boards affiliated with Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) and the St. John Family Hub is affiliated with the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB). These partnerships benefit both the schools and the OEYCs, as well as the families, caregivers and children who attend those locations.

The only hub offering summer hours is the OMSFC in Millbrook. As noted earlier in the report, we observe from both survey results and focus group discussions that users and potential users have strongly requested summer hours in all locations. It should also be noted that year-round programs are a Ministry of Education requirement as well.

**RECOMMENDATION (12):** The City of Peterborough needs to examine how summer hours can be established at some of its OEYCFC hubs.

In addition to the number of hours of programs, the Needs Assessment also gathered information on the number of visits made by children and adults to OEYC locations in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The chart below includes the number of individuals and the number of visits for both children and adults in each of the OEYC locations:

OEYC Locations	# of individuals: adult	# of individuals: children	# of visits: adult	# of visits: children
Antrim	924	906	4291	4785
Lakefield	320	390	1742	2290
Norwood	118	115	631	678
Otonabee Valley	314	337	1612	1898
St. John	304	330	1867	2227
Millbrook	147	207	1034	1463
Apsley	59	90	189	321

#### 3.8 Potential Program Space within Local Schools or Community Buildings

Discussion and information provided by the largest School Boards have provided the following information:

From Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB):

Schools with high vulnerability based on the 2015 EDI who also currently have space available include:

- Prince of Wales (South East Clonsilla area)
- Highland Heights (Chemong)
- Otonabee Valley (South East)

The Prince of Wales Public School is located in the South East Clonsilla area (which rates as the fourth highest area for both child population growth and higher vulnerabilities). It could be a potential location for an OEYCFC as it is also close to the South West area, which is also being considered as a potential location. Highland Heights Public School is located in the Chemong area, which has been highly rated due to its very high population and child vulnerabilities. Otonabee Valley Public School currently enjoys an outstanding partnership and working relationship with PFRC and is looking at the possibility of expanding their Family Hub program to include a second classroom.

KPRDSB has also identified vulnerable school communities where dedicated space is not available, but mobile programming may be an option for after-school and/or weekends:

- Roger Neilson (South West area)
- RF Downey (Chemong)
- King George/Armour Heights (East City)

From Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board:

The most vulnerable schools (based on EDI scores):

- St. Patrick (South East area)
- St. Alphonsus (South East Clonsilla)
- St. Paul (Chemong)
- St. Paul (town of Norwood)

St Paul (in the Chemong area in Peterborough) has mobile-type library space that could be used during school hours, and in addition they have evening and weekend space available for use, while St. Alphonsus has mobile-type library space for evening and weekend use.

Reviewing the above list, we note that the South East area has an already-existing OEYC, while the South West and Chemong areas have been identified previously as needing an OEYC. The town of Norwood also has an existing OEYC.

**RECOMMENDATION (13):** The City of Peterborough should examine the best location for its OEYCFC in the south part of the city. The current location at the St. John Family Hub is working well, but there is a question if it is reaching enough of the intended target population. Opportunities exist in South East Clonsilla (at Prince of Wales) as well as in another area (South West) that is ranked high for child population and vulnerabilities.

**RECOMMENDATION (14):** The City of Peterborough should work closely with PVNCCDSB to try to establish OEYCFC hubs, as this school board has clearly identified two schools (St. Alphonsus in the South West and St. Paul in the Chemong area) that closely match areas of Peterborough that this Needs Assessment has identified as potential OEYCFC locations.

#### 3.9 Summary of Community Programs Offered

The next section of the Needs Assessment examines the full range of programs and services offered by <u>all</u> early years' service providers generally over the months of January through March 2017 (or by other months to show the full range of programs available throughout the year). For the full array of programs offered by the complete range of community early years' service providers, divided by age-range and/or by type of program (e.g. drop-ins) so that all choices open to the community are presented, see Appendix F. Please note that all programs except those identified as requiring fees are offered free of charge. The extensive chart showing all programs offers some opportunities for the future.

The chart below presents the consultants' view of the implications in each category:

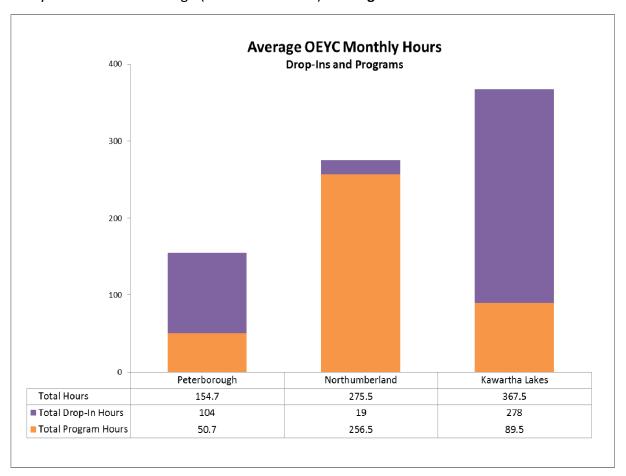
Type or Age Range	Potential Implication
Drop-ins	While the 40+ hours of drop-in offered each week seems abundant, we continually heard from parents and caregivers in the survey, pop-ups and focus groups that even more drop-ins are needed. Stakeholders are strongly supportive of the PFRC and OMSFC drop-ins, but want to see even more of them. The St. John
	Family Hub drop-in is so well-liked that people complained of over-crowdedness, and therefore, we heard from a number of participants that often stayed away due to the congestion.  RECOMMENDATION (15): The City of Peterborough should examine how the OEYCFCs could increase the number of drop-in locations and drop-in hours.
Prenatal & New Moms	There is a strong partnership between PFRC and Peterborough Public Health and it offers strong programming. There was only a small amount of feedback about prenatal or new mom/parent programs, and therefore there are no recommendations in this category.

Type or Age Range	Potential Implication
Infant	The array of programs in this category seem satisfactory as we received little feedback from stakeholders about the current programs, except for the general high level of satisfaction expressed in focus groups and surveys. We did however, receive a fair bit of feedback about the kinds of parenting education and workshops that people were looking for related to infants. The range of topics was broad and included:  • Sleep  • Infant first aid • Infant massage • More registered infant programs (e.g. sensory play, art, yoga)  RECOMMENDATION (16): The City of Peterborough should
	examine how the OEYCFCs could increase the number of parenting education and workshops.
Toddler	The consultant notes that there were 42 hours of Infant programs offered by PFRC during the three-month period noted in the chart in Appendix F, but only 11 hours for Toddler programs. The consultant is not aware of any specific program requirements or a ratio recommended for infant and toddler programs, but research shows that the sooner early years' programs engage with families, the better chance of keeping them engaged. As well, engaging families early is more likely to bring about enhanced attachment between parents and infants, reduced social isolation of new moms and can create better opportunities to referrals to other needed or specialized programs.  Again, satisfaction seemed very high with the current array of toddler programs, but feedback received from the survey and focus groups asked for additional toddler programs, such as:  • more registered toddler programs (e.g. arts and crafts, yoga, music, theatre)  • outdoor playgroups and education  • sports, recreation and movement  Parent education and workshops suggested included:  • Sleep  • Programs in French

Type or Age Range	Potential Implication
Preschool	There are numerous programs for preschoolers, but many of them are not free programs. PFRC only offers an average of 3 hours per month of preschool programs. We did hear some feedback from the focus groups or the survey about preschoolers.  Specific requests (for preschool and school age) included:  • More Kids in the Kitchen type food/nutrition/cooking programs  • Outdoor playgroups and education  • Sports, recreation and movement  • Programs in French (especially during the summer)
School-age	As we look at the school-age category, it is important to note that we are examining the top-end of the age bracket for early years' programs (0 to 6), and it is not always clear on how to differentiate programs geared for 5 and 6 year-olds from older children. PFRC only offers about 1 to 1.5 hours per month to this age-range. Nevertheless, in the survey, there were specific requests for programs and drop-ins outside of school hours.
Parent Workshops	See the suggestions noted in the Infant and Toddler boxes above, in addition to the following:  • Lunch and Learns  • Evening or weekend workshops for working parents  • Food/nutrition/cooking (for all ages)  • Sibling rivalry  • Sleep

An additional way to look at the number of hours offered in the Peterborough community by the OEYC is to review similar programs and their respective hours in neighbouring communities. We have been able to gather information from Northumberland and the City of Kawartha Lakes during this Needs Assessment (see the graph on the next page). One must always be cautious when comparing one community to another, particularly when looking at the future of the OEYCFC and the different boundaries that will be represented in January 2018. In the past, OEYC catchment areas and boundaries were determined by electoral riding boundaries. With the new, transformed OEYCFC boundaries, the Ministry of Education will be establishing OEYCFC programs and services by Municipal boundaries. Therefore, programs such as the ones in Apsley and Millbrook will switch jurisdictions to the City and County of Peterborough in 2018.

When viewing the graph below, presenting the average number of hours of drop-ins and programs offered per month, we see that the City of Kawartha Lakes offers more than twice as many hours as Peterborough (368 vs. 155 hours). **See Figure 8**:



The chart also shows that "drop-in" programs represent 75% of these City of Kawartha Lakes hours. On the other hand, Northumberland employs a totally different strategy by offering 256.5 hours of programming and only 19 hours of drop-in. This still represents more than 100 more hours than Peterborough, despite having 40% less population. Peterborough uses more of a 60/40 approach having 104 hours of drop-in and 50.7 program hours during the 3-month period that these statistics represent. For greater details on the hours of delivery offered for each age range of programs offered in these three communities, see Appendix G.

When reviewing the graphic above, the consultant would recommend that there should be more drop-ins in Northumberland, as there appear to be tremendous benefits based on the foundational conditions for supporting growth and long-term success (belonging, well-being, engagement and expression) as espoused in "How Does Learning Happen?". Features such as free-play, child-led play, and drop-in play are beneficial to children. In addition to the above chart, PFRC offers 96 hours per month of targeted programs and workshops as a part of their integrated services with CAPC and CPNP. This means that 38% of Peterborough's total program

hours are for targeted programs and workshops. PFRC also offers the fewest hours for programs and workshops and they offer 170 hours less than the City of Kawartha for drop-ins. Many families stated in the online survey that there are not enough programming and drop-in times for them. While the consultant is not aware of any best practice research that examines the ratio of early years' drop-in hours to universal programs to targeted program hours, there is some concern that a similar community in the City of Kawartha Lakes (similar in geography and its urban-rural mix), yet with only 2/3rds the amount of population as the Peterborough area, would have twice as many hours as Peterborough.

**RECOMMENDATION (17):** The City of Peterborough should more closely examine both the total hours provided currently by its OEYC and the ratio of drop-ins to universal programs to targeted programs.

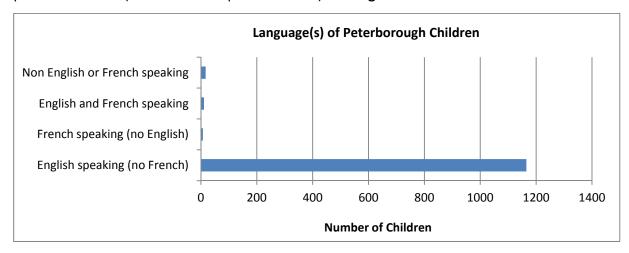
#### 3.10 Number of Children that Self-Identify as Indigenous

Information on children and families that self-identify as Indigenous is difficult to obtain. For this report, we have used the self-identified information that was acknowledged through the 2012 KPS administered through the local school board:

From a response rate of 55% (642 respondents), 3.4% self-identified as Aboriginal. Information gathered from the Executive Director of the Niijkiwendidaa Services Circle stated that, in her experience, Peterborough's Indigenous Community is spread out across the city.

#### 3.11 Primary Language of Children

The following chart includes the primary language(s) spoken by Year 2 Kindergarten students as per the 2015 EDI (1200 valid EDI questionnaires). **See Figure 9**:



The above graph shows that there are very few non-English-speaking children in Peterborough, accounting for only 2% of Year 2 Kindergarten students. Although Peterborough has a high English speaking population, it also has a high French Immersion rate, with 23% of Year 2 Kindergartners attending French Immersion.

# 4.0 Findings from Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers

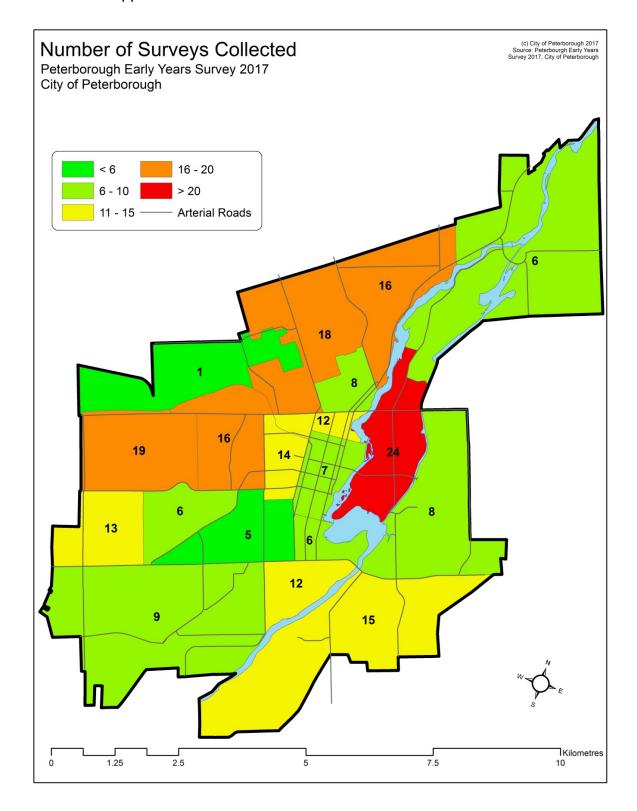
There were 468 respondents to the on-line survey, of whom:

- 76% were Parents;
- 9% were Grandparents;
- 4% were Caregivers; and
- 5% were those who were interested in accessing services

The respondents accessed services in various parts of Peterborough and Peterborough County, as shown in the table below (note: some respondents accessed services in more than one location):

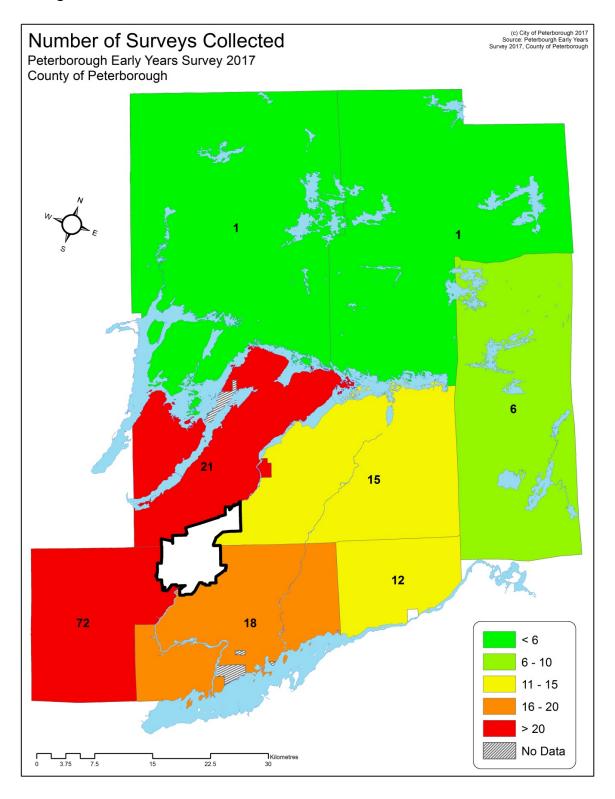
LOCATION (where the respondents had previously attended)	% of Respondents
PFRC-Antrim Family Hub, 201 Antrim Street, Peterborough	41%
PFRC-Otonabee Valley Family Hub, 580 River Road South, Peterborough	18%
PFRC-St. John Family Hub, 746 Park Street South, Peterborough	17%
OMSFC-Millbrook Family Centre, 1 Dufferin Street, Millbrook	16%
PFRC-Lakefield Family Hub, 71 Bridge Street, Lakefield	13%
PFRC-Norwood Family Hub, 44 Elm Street, Norwood	3%
NHCS-Apsley, 340 McFadden Road, Apsley	0.5%
I have not visited any of the OEYC/PFRC-Family Hubs in the past year	34%

The map below shows where the people who completed the survey lived in the Peterborough area. **See Figure 10**:



The red and orange colours on the map indicate the areas in which more people filled out the online survey; while the green colours show areas where the fewest people completed the survey.

The map below shows where people who completed the survey lived in the County of Peterborough. **See Figure 11**:



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The map shows a very strong response rate from the Cavan-Monaghan area, in which the current OEYC in Millbrook is located. Throughout the Needs Assessment, the consultants learned that this is a highly-valued, well-attended and well-supported family resource centre. This type of strong community support, along with its high-growth and second-highest child population rating (see the maps on pages 21 and 20), make the OEYC in Millbrook an outstanding location for an OEYCFC in 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION (18):** The City of Peterborough should keep the OEYCFC in Millbrook and retain its current provider (OMSFC).

The survey also asked <u>how often</u> people visited an OEYC location with the largest percentage (27%) attending once a week, while 35% had not visited an OEYC in the past year (or had never visited one). One of the engagement goals of the Needs Assessment was to reach those who were not currently engaged in the OEYC system and through extensive advertising and community-based pop-ups, over a third of the respondents were not current "clients" of the OEYCs. See the chart below:

How often did you visit an OEYC?	% visited
Once a week	27%
2-4 times a week	14%
Once a month	14%
Less than once a month	9%
I have never been to any of the OEYC/PFRC-Family Hubs	18%
I have been to one of the Family Hubs, but not in the past year	17%
5 or more times a week	2%

The survey asked about barriers that prevented people from visiting an OEYC location, and the main barriers included that the programs or services were held at inconvenient times (28%), or that people were unaware of available programs and services (23%). See the chart below:

Barriers that prevented you from visiting an OEYC	% who stated a barrier
Inconvenient program/service times	28%
Unaware of available programs and services	23%
Family life is too busy	20%
The program/service is too busy	12%
Lack of transportation	7%
Programs/services were located too far away from my home	6%
Not comfortable going alone	5%
Cost	3%
Not interested in participating in programs	2%
Other	5%
None/have not experienced any barriers	35%

The survey question about barriers raises a few observations. First of all, 35% of those who completed the survey did not experience any barriers and this is a very good outcome. However, over one quarter of the respondents (28%) stated that the programs and services were offered at inconvenient times for them. This finding coincides with both open-ended responses from other parts of the online survey, as well as discussions held in focus groups in which families were looking for times other than what was currently offered by the current OEYC (i.e. summer, March Break, Fridays, Saturdays and after-school times). It should be noted that 23% of respondents stated they were unaware of the OEYC's programs and services. This finding calls for an enhanced communication strategy by the OEYCFC.

**RECOMMENDATION (19):** The OEYCFCs should have a specific focus on communicating to the greater public about their available programs and services.

**RECOMMENDATION (20):** The new OEYCFC should respond to the findings (in both the survey and focus groups) in which families were looking for times other than what was currently offered and examine the expressed need for drop-ins and programming during Summer, March Break, on Fridays, on Saturdays (for more than just Dads), as well as after-school times.

Respondents were asked about <u>what was important to them</u> given the age-range that OEYCs serve and the range of programs and services that OEYCs currently offer. As presented in the following table, most age ranges and types of programs or services were seen to be important to 75% or more of respondents.

Age Range / Program / Service Offered	% who stated it was Extremely or Moderately Important		
AGE RANGE			
Toddler	93%		
Preschool	88%		
Infant	84%		
School-age	65%		
TYPE OF PROGRAM			
Play to Learn Drop-in	88%		
Crafts or Storytime	86%		
Postnatal support	84%		
Breastfeeding	82%		
Prenatal support	80%		
OTHER TYPE OF SUPPORT			
Parenting or Caregiver Support	89%		
Referrals to specialized providers	88%		
Consultation with specialized providers	87%		
Parenting or Caregiver Workshops	85%		
Toy Lending Library	76%		
Home Child Care Information/Support	75%		
Food Bank	69%		
Clothing Exchange	65%		
Online programming	52%		

Given the very high number of respondents (93%) who felt Toddler programming was extremely or moderately important to them, this raises an earlier question (noted on page 29) about the amount of toddler and infant programming. Using current statistics (for January to March 2017), it shows that there is almost four times as much infant programming when compared to toddler programming, so given that 93% of survey respondents feel toddler programming is very important, it would be helpful for the OEYCFC to review the amount of toddler programming offered. As well, in the comparison with the average monthly hours in Northumberland and the City of Kawartha Lakes (see Appendix G), Peterborough had much less toddler programming.

**RECOMMENDATION (21):** The OEYCFC should examine the amount of infant and toddler programs and determine if its current ratio could be better balanced.

Respondents were asked how important a range of <u>available times</u> of the day or times of the year were when they would like to access OEYC programs or services. Summer (87%) and Weekday mornings (85%) and were seen to be the most important times for OEYCs to be available, with weekday evenings and Christmas Break (55% and 57% importance respectively) seen to be the least important times. See the chart below:

Times that are most important	% who stated it was Extremely or Moderately Important
Summer	87%
Weekday Mornings	85%
March Break	81%
Saturdays	75%
Weekday Afternoons	72%
PD Days	71%
Christmas Break	57%
Weekday Evenings	55%

It is interesting to note that summers were seen as the most important times for OEYCs to be available as most of the current OEYCs, other than the OMSFC in Millbrook, are not open in the summer. From the chart in Appendix F, we can see that a number of community services and programs are offered in the summer (e.g. Zoo, Canoe Museum, Buckhorn Library) but it appears that a large majority of survey respondents (87%) are looking for OEYC-type programs in the summer. Given that the Ministry of Education provides a requirement for "year-round" programming, this is an un-met need that is being requested in this community.

**RECOMMENDATION (22):** The City of Peterborough should examine how its OEYCFCs can deliver additional programs and services, particularly in the summer, but also over March Break.

As far as the <u>best times of the day</u>, family members and caregivers preferred 9 am to noon as the best time to use OEYC services (73%), with 12 – 3 and 3 - 6 as the next preferred times (39% and 37%). Respondents also felt it was very important that their OEYC be open <u>more than one day per week</u> in their community (92% said it was extremely or moderately important).

Hours of the day are preferable for you % who stated this time was pref	
6 – 9 am	12%
9 – 12 pm	73%
12 – 3 pm	39%
3 – 6 pm	37%
6 -9 pm	26%

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The strong finding that the new OEYCFC should be open more than one day per week (92%) ties in well with focus group discussions regarding "congestion" in certain OEYCs, particularly on certain days.

The survey also asked how important is it for the OEYCFC to be within 15 minutes of their home traveling by various methods. Respondents said it was extremely or moderately important to be close by driving (74%), walking (54%), by public transportation (45%) and biking (40%).

Importance for the OEYCFC to be within 15 minutes of your home by	% who stated it was Extremely or Moderately Important
Driving	74%
Walking	54%
Public Transportation	45%
By bike	40%

Respondents find it important that the OEYC locations be close to their home mostly by driving. This works well for the Antrim Family Hub, which is centrally located, though hampered by a small parking area. This finding also aligns well with earlier recommendations to examine new OEYCFC hubs in south west and north areas of the city.

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed that they were interested in <u>accessing child</u> and family programs and services in the following ways: Being in-person onsite (91% said they agreed or strongly agreed); through a website (72%); through social media (59%); and through live streaming of information online (only 36% said they agreed or strongly agreed).

Interested in accessing programs and services in the following ways	% who stated it was Extremely or Moderately Important	
On-site (in person)	91%	
Through a website	72%	
Through social media	59%	
Live streaming of information online	36%	

The survey asked about the level of interest in participating in child and family programs and services in the following types of locations:

Type of Location	% who stated they agreed or strongly agreed
Community resource centre	89%
Library	87%
Community recreation centre	86%
Elementary school	80%
Outdoor park	78%
High school	44%
Place of worship	30%
Apartment complex	16%

The responses to this question strongly support the use of community resource and recreation centres, libraries and elementary schools as locales for OEYCFC programs and services. Following up on recommendations made earlier in this Needs Assessment, when the City of Peterborough is seeking potential locations for newly-placed OEYCFCs in areas like Chemong and South West, it could look to these four types of locations as potential locations. The preference for outdoor parks also ties into parent requests for more physical and outdoor programs and drop-ins.

**RECOMMENDATION (23):** The City of Peterborough should examine community resource and recreation centres, libraries (particularly for rural programs) and elementary schools as locations for newly-placed OEYCFC programs and services.

The survey also asked how important the following features about OEYCs are:

Type of Feature	% who stated feature was Extremely or Moderately Important
Expose my child to activities that support their development	97%
Opportunity for my child to play with others and make friends	96%
Connect with early years professionals	88%
Learn about topics, such as child development and parenting	87%
Share parenting experiences with other	85%
Develop friendships with other parents and caregivers	84%
Expose my child to another language or culture	76%

Information gleaned from the open-ended questions from the survey and discussions held in parent and caregiver focus groups reinforce that these are very important to the users of the OEYCs and in fact, the parents, grandparents and caregivers are quite pleased that the OEYCs are delivering on and addressing these needs.

#### 4.1 Summary of the Survey

While there are a number of comments and subsequent recommendations made in the previous section of the Needs Assessment about areas where people have some critical feedback (wanting more drop-ins, wanting more programming, particularly in the summer and March Break, and more locations), it must be noted that the current level of satisfaction is very high with the current providers (specifically PFRC and OMSFC). In the survey, the largest category of responses was noted in comments of praise for OEYC staff, programs and services. Respondents noted the caring and commitment of staff, the welcoming attitude when people come to the hubs, along with the following comments and quotes about the current OEYCs:

- Parents and children gain so much from coming to the OEYC
- My children have grown up and developed skills, friendships and bonds
- The children, parents, grandparents and caregivers benefit from this program
- It gives people a place to interact and engage with others
- It makes the transition to kindergarten easier
- Play group is an essential service in our community
- It helped us build a community so we weren't isolated
- It is important for these programs to continue at little or no cost to the families
- These programs and their continuing benefits have a made a HUGE impact on my maternity leave and positive mental health
- Millbrook has tremendous community support

Further survey results pointed to other features of the current OEYC that respondents felt could be improved so that the current OEYC could better serve young families once the transition to OEYCFC occurred in January 2018. These results included:

- Times of programs offered
  - This was the most often heard comment in the survey and it referred to a number of identified issues, including:
    - More drop-in times (and having drop-ins open for longer hours)
    - Summer programming and drop-ins (including having the Toy Library open in summer)
    - March Break programming and/or drop-ins
    - More opportunities for working mothers
    - Drop-ins being too crowded because according to the parent surveys, they feel there is not enough choice and too few drop-ins are offered.
    - Drop-ins open on Saturdays and not just for dads
    - After school drop-ins and programs
    - Overall, the survey pointed to respondents having high praise for the programs and services but just wanting more of them!

- Types of programs offered
  - o Offering more programs for children with special needs
  - More physical activity
  - More outdoor programs and drop-ins
  - Programs/workshops for the whole family (specifically around food, nutrition, cooking)
  - Once again, there were many strong and positive comments about many different programs; about the toy library; and about strong, supportive and effective staff
- Changes in services offered
  - A number of comments were made about older siblings; including the whole family in programs; and about children who have "aged-out"
  - o Increasing drop-in times and locations so there is less congestion

The survey also found that 22% of respondents were un-aware of OEYC programs and services so a better communication plan is needed.

#### 4.2 Summary of Focus Groups (for parents and licensed / unlicensed child care)

A series of focus groups were also held as part of the Needs Assessment with a variety of stakeholders. The chart below presents the intended target group and how many people participated:

Who	How Many	Location	
"Me & My Dad" Drop-In	9	Antrim Family Hub	
Parents (Drop-In)	9	Antrim Family Hub	
Parents (Drop-In)	7	Lakefield Family Hub	
Parents (Drop-In)	7	Norwood Family Hub	
Unlicensed Home Care	5	Antrim Family Hub	
Licensed Child Care	20	Peterborough Social Services	

The unlicensed home care providers were a small group, but provided good feedback about their use of the OEYCs, mainly at the Antrim Family Hub. They liked the drop-ins and the programming but were hoping there were more offerings of both kinds of programs (similar to most of the other feedback we have received). The main item that was different from other feedback received was their observation that the OEYC was no longer "allowed" to promote the use of unlicensed home care providers through their website. They had previously found this a useful mechanism for families in the community to seek other types of child care (and they had heard from families as well that some families had a harder time finding their services because this communication medium was no longer being used).

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In the licensed child care focus group, there was a good turnout of child care operators. The main message provided by this group was that they were looking for more and better connections to OEYCs in their locations. In a number of instances, examples were given of current partnerships (particularly in the school hubs where the OEYC and the child care setting shared space under the same roof) that were working well and child care providers were looking for more of the same. In settings where there was not a partnership, these providers were also looking for new opportunities to partner. No specific arrangements were discussed, but there was more of a general acknowledgement that the OEYC would be welcomed with open arms to try new programming and partnerships with any of a variety of child care settings. A French-language child care operator made a particular plea to do some joint programming in French.

**RECOMMENDATION (24):** The OEYCFC should set a goal of working actively with the child care community to seek out and establish specific partnerships.

Four focus groups were held with parents, grandparents and caregivers in current OEYC locations, such as the Antrim, Lakefield and Norwood Family Hubs. The turnouts were viewed as a good number and parents participated enthusiastically. The summary of the parents' feedback is presented in the following points:

- Great range of activities/workshops all great/great atmosphere
- Staff are excellent, supportive, friendly, knowledgeable
- Feels like a special place/a safe place
- Very welcoming/good communication/a trusting place
- Building/making friendships (for kids and parents!)
- Connecting with other parents/bouncing ideas off other parents
- Grows independence in kids

Families also noted some improvements that they were looking for:

- Having drop-ins over March Break
- Needing more drop-ins (and longer times)
- Tuesday mornings are too busy, too crowded
- Nothing on Fridays
- Need something in the summer
- Starting earlier than 9:30
- Something for working moms after work/weekends
- MORE DAYS

#### 4.3 Summary of Community Partners' Consultation

A large series of interviews were conducted with stakeholders from different sectors and various organizations (please see Appendix B). We once again heard about the successful programs run by the current OEYC provider, their reaching out for partnerships and their strong commitment to and achievement of early years principles.

A lot of the discussion centred on the potential for even more partnerships, from both a programming perspective (e.g. indigenous, newcomer, mental health) and from a sharing space perspective. While no specific programming or space suggestions were provided, many of the stakeholders seemed open to new ideas or ways of co-leading programs or offering space.

**RECOMMENDATION (25):** The new OEYCFC should take advantage of this openness to provide shared programming or space by continuing to assign a senior staff person to oversee and promote these potential opportunities.

# 5.0 Delivery of Mandatory Core Services, Service Delivery Model & Locations

The Ministry of Education expects CMSMs to manage the delivery of a suite of core early years services in their communities. The mandatory core services include engaging parents and caregivers; supporting early learning and development; and making connections for families. By reviewing the extensive list of programs and services offered in the City and County of Peterborough (listed in Appendix F), it is quite evident that the community of young children and their families and caregivers are well-covered when it comes to the range of services available in this community. However, there is still a question about the amount of drop-in and other program time that is available. As noted in the survey results, 92% of respondents wanted the OEYC programs available more than one day per week in their community and 88% were looking for summer programming. While the quality of the programming and its relevancy (see the chart on page 41 about the importance of the features offered by the OEYC) is not in question, there is a large need expressed through focus groups, pop-ups and the survey for more of the strong programming that is currently occurring.

**RECOMMENDATION (26):** As we have noted throughout the Needs Assessment, the new OEYCFC must explore the potential for offering more of the same drop-ins and programming. Stakeholders are very satisfied with current programming, but are looking for more and more of it.

The question of the locations that are most preferable for the City of Peterborough were addressed by reviewing census population and growth maps, EDI scores and their corresponding identified vulnerable populations. The cross-tabulation chart on page 18, which looked at the intersection of these three factors reinforce the location for the current OEYCs at the Antrim and Otonabee Valley Family Hubs. At the same time, we learned through the Needs Assessment that the largest population of young children live in Chemong and North Crest in the north part of the City where there is currently no OEYC. The survey results showed almost a quarter of respondents generally felt that there was nothing offered in their own particular area/township or that there is a program that they would like offered in their area/township that is not currently offered. This finding points out that there are still areas that are underserviced.

As for the 8 townships that comprise the County of Peterborough, as outlined on page 24, after reviewing census population maps, EDI scores and their corresponding identified vulnerable populations, the current hubs in Lakefield, Norwood and Millbrook are appropriate locations, and, as well, we have supported the approach to permanent hubs in rural locations, while suggesting looking further into mobile services as future budgets, needs and time allow.

An additional feature tied to the delivery of mandatory core services relates to the current City of Peterborough service provider of OEYC services - PFRC. PFRC also receives funding from the federal government for the CAPC and the CPNP programs, which targets families with children from birth to 18 months living in conditions of risk (CAPC) and women during pregnancy and up to 9 months postnatally living in challenging circumstances (CPNP). Each of these programs has a strong alignment to similar goals for OEYCFCs. For instance, one of the goals for OEYCFCs is having targeted outreach activities directed at parents and caregivers that could benefit from OEYCFC programs and services but are not currently accessing services e.g. newcomers to Ontario, teen parents, low income families, which aligns well with both CAPC and CPNP. As well, an additional OEYCFC goal is to make connections for families. Both CAPC and CPNP accomplish this by supporting a transition to OEYC drop-ins and OEYC registered programs and services, as well as providing Nipissing District Developmental and Speech screens as appropriate, along with referrals to Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Five Counties Children Centre's therapy services, primary health care, and social services referrals as needed.

#### 5.1 Indigenous and French Language Considerations

During the Needs Assessment process both Indigenous and French language stakeholders were consulted. An Indigenous consultant and a separate French-speaking consultant were utilized by the consulting team to conduct key informant interviews with these stakeholders to inquire about their respective community's needs in regard to the early years' system. The interviews also included soliciting information about how the OEYCFC could best meet their needs following the transformation process in January 2018.

Two Indigenous organizations (Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre and Niijkiwendidaa Services Circle) were engaged in the discussion regarding the evolution of the OEYCFCs. Each of the respondents was from Indigenous ancestry and had worked in the Indigenous community for many years. One of these two centres offering family programming recently began an early year's program (at the friendship centre). Looking at the past, the respondents noted that there had been limited success on behalf of the OEYC in meeting the needs of the local Indigenous population. Hence, the Indigenous community looks forward to positive relationship-building with the new OEYCFC and felt that there are several opportunities on which the transformed OEYCFC can foster a strengthened relationship with the Indigenous centres in Peterborough and build a foundation upon which appropriate and successful Indigenous family programming can thrive.

In one example provided by the respondents, it looked at the OEYCFC co-facilitating programming, including supporting the development of an Indigenous replacement to the Triple P curriculum. It was understood that the local public health unit is currently drafting an Indigenous parenting program; and so this is a possible area where the OEYCFC could get involved in supporting and promoting this new program. Getting involved at an early stage of

program development can assist in auditing the course content from the perspective of the requirements of parents' learning. Further opportunities for enhancing the relationship with the OEYCFC included hiring Indigenous staff at the OEYCFC, with one of those positions possibly being that of an Elder. As well, the OEYCFC could include co-delivery of Indigenous parenting classes, and holding moccasin-making classes (as a vehicle to familiarize and build trust with families).

**RECOMMENDATION (27):** The OEYCFC should continue to reach out and work closely with the two Indigenous organizations, to explore some of the suggestions in the previous section, and to seek a partnership arrangement over programming suggestions.

In the French-language interviews with French school board representatives, it was stressed that they have not, thus far, had much success with the family hubs. They felt that improvement could be made and that success would look like better partnerships (between French and English system) and better visibility for the French school board. For the future, parents would appreciate services for their young babies and toddlers — particularly so moms and babies can go out and meet others; while having a need to engage with their children in French. It was also noted that a new French school was being built (Monseigneur-Jamot on Woodglade Boulevard) and that new services could be offered there. A representative of a French-language Day Care Centre also participated in the focus group for day care operators and also stated a need for a better partnership and a willingness to work better together with the OEYCFC.

**RECOMMENDATION (28):** The OEYCFC should continue to reach out and work closely with the French school boards, though it must be recognized that the French-speaking population in and around Peterborough is only about 1.5% and specific programming for French-speaking families may be difficult to achieve.

#### **5.2 Staffing Requirements**

In regards to staffing, Ministry of Education guidelines state that qualified staff teams are responsible for delivering OEYCFC programs and services at every centre. It notes that qualified staff teams must include Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) to deliver mandatory core services related to supporting early learning and development. It further identifies that RECEs have specialized knowledge and expertise related to child development and play and inquiry-based learning that is essential to delivering high quality early years programs and services, such as drop-in programs.

Currently, PFRC has many RECEs in a number of different positions. These include 10 of the 12 Site Coordinators who are RECEs. As well, its Volunteer Coordinator is a RECE and one of the managers is a RECE. In addition to RECEs, PFRC also employs two registered B.Eds. (primary),

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two certified Social Service Workers (SSW), one certified Social Worker (SW), two Registered Nurses/Lactation Consultants and a Developmental Services Worker (DSW). It should be noted that a number of these staff work part-time for the OEYC and part-time in other parts of PFRC, but their OEYC contribution is paid directly through the OEYC budget. Both the number of RECEs and the representation of other relevant specialties seem to clearly meet the Ministry of Education guidelines.

#### **5.3 Communication Strategy**

CMSMs like the City of Peterborough are required by the Ministry of Education to share their completed Needs Assessment summaries with all relevant early years partners. This is meant to ensure that all local partners are aware of the steps that were taken to determine Peterborough's needs as they relate to OEYCFC programs and services. It is recommended that summaries should also be shared with the relevant Early Years Implementation Branch regional staff. Early years partners should include:

- English and French district school boards, including Directors of Education and Early Years Leads;
- Local public health;
- Specialized community service agencies;
- OEYCFC service providers;
- First Nations and Indigenous partners;
- Francophone organizations;
- Licensed child care providers; and
- Other relevant community, post-secondary and training, or government organizations, ministries and departments.

With respect to the initial plans for OEYCFCs, the Ministry understands that these plans may shift over the course of the first few years of program implementation in response to changing community needs and the capacity related to program planning, management and program delivery. The City of Peterborough is expected to regularly review relevant community data and engage with community partners to ensure that OEYCFC programs and services remain responsive to changing needs. Having the DAC in place will help the City to maintain current data and information about the OEYCFC system.

**RECOMMENDATION (29):** As the City of Peterborough moves from its current system of OEYCs to a transformed OEYCFC arrangement, it will want to utilize communication activities, such as:

- Creating a feedback loop that enables stakeholders to provide input and feedback to the City in a timely and efficient manner, including responding to feedback that has been received.
- Considering creating a stakeholder information update (or e-newsletter) as a means of keeping early years stakeholders informed of OEYCFC province-wide information and activities.
- That in order to ensure that service partners and service providers remain fully aware of OEYCFC services, that this be a standing item (share and tell about new or different services) on local children and youth community planning table agendas.

#### 5.4 Deeper Community Connections and Integration of Services

PFRC has partnerships, not only with the schools it co-locates with (and the day care facilities in those schools), but also with a wide range of community organizations, such as:

- Public Health (for the Feeding your Baby workshop), as well as the use of a dietician and fast-track referral process for the Healthy Babies Health Children program;
- New Canadians Centre for parent education and a multicultural program;
- Five Counties Children's Centre, as its Resource Teachers and Speech Pathologists attend Play-to-Learn programs;
- Family Health Team for its Partners in Pregnancy program and for parent education;
- YWCA for Nourishment and Cooking programs;
- Children's Aid Society for enhanced referrals;
- Kawartha Food Share, who provides food at the Antrim Family Hub;
- Kinark, for mental health support.

PFRC also has ongoing relationships with Fleming College and Trent University regarding the placement of students at OEYC locations, as well as sitting on a range of community committees and producing its "pink" calendar of early year events and programs on behalf of the community.

Throughout the Needs Assessment, the consultants heard from a range of other service providers about an openness and a strong willingness to create closer partnerships with the new OEYCFC. This willingness ranged from being available for more thorough discussions about how partnerships could work more effectively to offers to run specialized joint programs (e.g. with Indigenous service providers, newcomer agencies, the library, etc.). The schools where the Hubs were currently located also expressed a willingness to work more closely together, and to

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look at greater opportunities to utilize school space (where feasible as far as space limitations were concerned).

#### 5.5 Other Issues

One additional issue arose that cannot be categorized in any of the planning requirements or categories identified in the guidelines for this Needs Assessment. In a few of the parent-grandparent-caregiver focus groups, participants identified the high quality and amount of food that was provided during several drop-in and/or programming times. While these participants highly appreciated that food was provided, and saw the residual benefits of providing the food, there was some questions about the necessity and the cost of the food. The basic question was if the cost of the food could be used for other purposes (i.e. more drop-ins or programs). Again, participants welcomed the food, saw its nutritional value and other benefits (and perhaps its use as a draw to bring more people in), but questioned whether the cost was justified.

# **Appendix A - Glossary**

Throughout the Needs Assessment report, a number of abbreviations are used and while they are always spelled out in full when they are first used, they are included here for easy reference. The list is included below:

Complete term	Abbreviation
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program	CPNP
City of Peterborough	City
Community Action Program for Children	CAPC
Consolidated Municipal Service Managers	CMSM
Data Analysis Coordinator	DAC
Developmental Services Worker	DSW
District Social Service Administration Board	DSSAB
Early Development Instrument	EDI
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	KPRDSB
Kindergarten Parent Survey	KPS
North Hastings Children's Services	NHCS
Old Millbrook School Family Centre	OMSFC
Ontario Early Years Centre (existing)	OEYC
Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre (new in 2018)	OEYCFC
Peterborough Family Resource Centre	PFRC
Peterborough Planning Table for Children and Youth	PPTCY
Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington	PVNCCDSB
Catholic District School Board	
Registered Early Childhood Educator	RECE
Social Service Worker	SSW

### Appendix B - Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan included meeting with stakeholders from the following categories and types of organizations:

- Parents, Grandparents, Children and Caregivers
- Unlicensed Home Child Care Providers
- Licensed child care providers (including a French-speaking centre)
- Principals at Schools
- French and English school boards, including Superintendents of Education and Early Years Leads
- First Nations and Indigenous partners
- Investing in Quality Committee
- Trent University
- Fleming College
- Specialized community service agencies
- The Peterborough Planning Table for Children and Youth (PPTCY), including:
  - o Alternatives Community Program Services
  - City of Peterborough
  - o Community Counselling & Resource Centre
  - o Community Living Peterborough
  - o Five Counties Children's Centre
  - o Fourcast
  - John Howard Society Peterborough
  - Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB)
  - Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society
  - Kinark Child & Family Services
  - o Learning Disabilities Assoc. of Peterborough
  - Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)
  - Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)
  - Ministry of Education (MOE)
  - Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) Family & Youth Clinic
  - o Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) Women's and Children's Program
  - Peterborough Family Health Team
  - Peterborough Family Resource Centre (PFRC)
  - Peterborough Public Health (PPH)
  - Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB)
  - Peterborough Youth Services

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- o Service Coordination for Children & Youth
- Tri County Community Support Services
- United Way Peterborough
- Youth Emergency Shelter

Once the key stakeholders were identified, a wide variety of methods were employed to reach out to the broad list of stakeholders. These methods included:

- A series of focus groups held in various locations that included:
  - o Parents, Grandparents, Children and Caregivers;
    - The parents, grandparents, children and caregiver focus groups were held in OEYC locations at the following Family Hubs:
      - o Antrim;
      - Lakefield; and
      - o Norwood.
    - These focus groups were voluntary, held during Hub drop-in times and included an open invitation to any parent, child, grandparent or caregiver to attend (and in fact, representatives from all categories did participate in the range of focus groups held);
  - Unlicensed Home Child Care Providers;
  - Licensed child care providers; and
  - o the Planning Table
- Key Informant Interviews were arranged with the following organizations:
  - French and English school boards, including Superintendents of Education and Early Years Leads
  - Principals at Schools;
  - First Nations and Indigenous partners (Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre and Niijkiwendidaa Services Circle);
  - New Canadians Centre;
  - o Early Years Literacy Specialist with PFRC; and
  - o Fleming College.
- On-Line Surveys were offered to parents, grandparents and caregivers in the following ways:
  - o The survey was posted on-line and advertised in local newspapers;
  - The web-link for the on-line survey was widely publicized;
  - Participants at Family Hubs were given the link on postcards and reminded to complete the survey;
  - The postcards advertising the survey was distributed widely through children's service providers and at locations where young parents were likely to be;
  - The postcards announced that 10 survey participants would be eligible for gift cards at a local grocery.

- Pop-Ups were held at several community locations over a two-day period:
  - o A total of four pop-ups were held in four locations;
  - The consultant, with help from the City, set up information booths in order to interact with the community at the following locations:
    - City of Peterborough Social Services Reception Waiting Room;
    - Peterborough Sport & Wellness Centre;
    - Lansdowne Place Mall (all day pop-up); and
    - Peterborough Public Library.

The pop-ups provided an informal way for the consultant to meet and talk with a wide variety of parents and caregivers of young children at locations where young families would likely go, particularly during March Break (when the pop-ups were scheduled).

The following chart sums up the stakeholder engagement strategy by displaying the stakeholders, how many participated and the methodology used during the study.

Type of Stakeholder/Agency/Organization	Method Used	Approximate Number Participating
Parents/Grandparents/Caregivers/Children	Focus Groups	32
Parents/Grandparents/Caregivers/Children	Pop-ups	Numerous (not counted)
Parents/Grandparents/Caregivers/Children	Survey	468
Unlicensed Home Child Care Providers	Focus Groups	5
Licensed child care providers (including a French- speaking centre)	Focus Groups	20
Principals at Schools	1:1 Interview	3
French and English school boards, including Superintendents of Education and Early Years Leads	1:1 Interview	2
First Nations and Indigenous partners	1:1 Interview	2
Investing in Quality Committee	Part of a Focus Group	2
Trent University	1:1 Interview	1
Fleming College	1:1 Interview	1
The Peterborough Planning Table for Children and Youth (PPTCY)	Focus Group	5
The Peterborough Planning Table for Children and Youth (PPTCY)	Survey	4

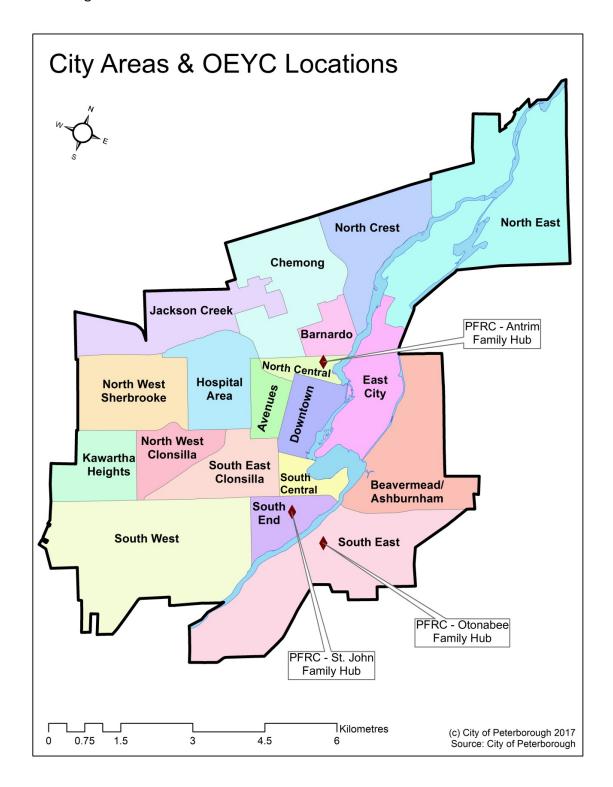
## Appendix C - Data Gathering Plan

The Ministry of Education's Planning Guidelines for Service System Managers included requirements for obtaining the following information needs and their sources:

- Number of children ages 0 to 6 by area / census tract / township
  - 2016 Census
- Primary language of families
  - o 2015 EDI Snapshot City of Peterborough
- Existing child and family programs serving children ages 0 to 6, parents, and caregivers, including information on program offerings, locations, and utilization
  - o Information obtained from current providers (including PFRC; YMCA; Public Libraries [in the City and County of Peterborough]; Wellness Centre; and Peterborough Public Health, as well as OMSFC in Millbrook and NHCS in Apsley
  - Key informant interviews
  - o Peterborough Planning Table for Children and Youth focus group and survey
- Children with identified social or developmental vulnerabilities and their approximate location
  - o 2015 EDI
- Number of children that self-identify as Indigenous
  - Self-identified information through the 2012 KPS
- Available or potential program space within local schools or community buildings
  - Self-reported by various school boards
- Parent and caregiver feedback on preferred OEYCFC service locations, hours of operation, and program offerings
  - Extensive information/feedback received from parent and caregiver on-line survey (developed by the Consultant and the City – 468 respondents)
  - o Focus groups at OEYC's
  - Pop-ups at various locations

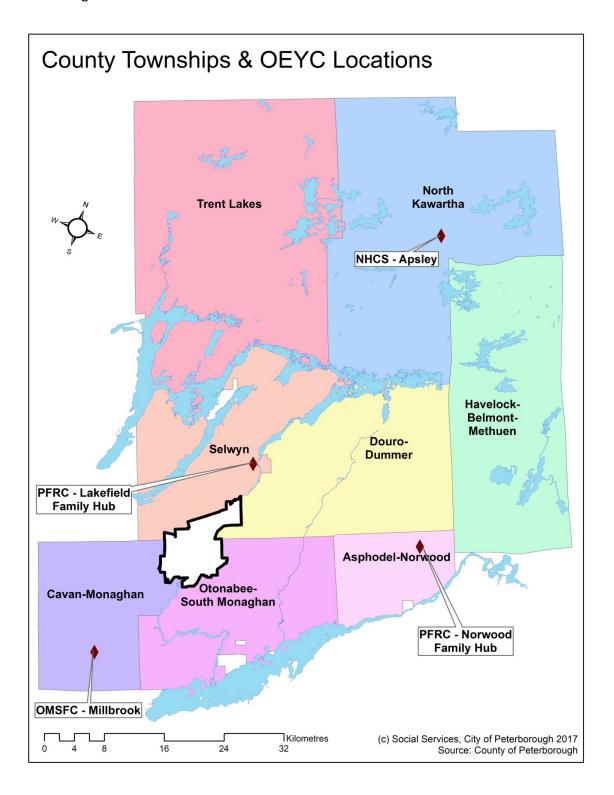
# **Appendix D - City Areas and OEYCs**

The map below identifies the areas and the current locations of OEYCs in the City of Peterborough:



## **Appendix E - County Townships and OEYCs**

The following map identifies the townships and the current locations of OEYCs in the County of Peterborough:



# **Appendix F - Program Offerings**

Type of	Service Provider	Examples	Hours Offered
Program			
Drop-in	PFRC	Play to Learn, Me and My Dad, Well Baby & Breastfeeding Clinic	32.5 hours per week
	OMSFC	Stay n' Play, Drop-In Gym	7.5 hours per week
	NHCS	Step into Learning	1.5 hours per week
	Buckhorn Library	Drop-in	Saturdays – July-Aug
	OMSFC	Music and Movement	January - 2 hours February - 2 hours March - 2 hours
	Millbrook Library	Story Time	Thursday & Friday
		Colouring	Tuesday & Thursday
	Bruce Johnston Branch	Story Time	Thursday
	Buckhorn Branch	Story Time	Wednesday
	Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre	Parent-child drop-in Baby Wellness &	Daily Monthly
		Breastfeeding Clinic	
New Moms	PFRC & Public Health	Feeding your Baby	
	Public Health	Peer support/Parent education	As needed
	Wellness Centre (fee)	Baby Sleep	60 minutes per week
Prenatal	Public Health	Prenatal Classes	22 hours per month
	Public Health	Young Parents	2 hours x 6 weeks x 3 times/year
	Wellness Centre (fee)	Prenatal Aqua Fitness	55 minutes x 10 wks. 45 minutes x 10 wks.
Infant	PFRC	Mother Goose, Infant	January - 9.5 hours
		Massage, Footsteps to Parenting	February - 20.5 hours March - 12 hours
	Peterborough Library	Baby & Me Mother Goose	Fall/Winter/Spring
	Lakefield Library	Baby Time, Story Time, March Break	6 weeks (some summer)

Type of Program	Service Provider	Examples	Hours Offered
	Public Health	Healthy Babies Healthy Children	As needed
	Public Health	Breastfeeding education/support	As needed
	YMCA (Fee)	Babies and Books & Playshop	30 minutes; Tuesdays and Thursdays; Winter/Spring
	Wellness Centre (fee)	Postnatal Fitness	30-60 mins. X 10 wks.
Toddler	PFRC	Songs and Signs, A Morning of Little Counters, Toddlers Messy Morning, Toddler Fun	Jan - 3 hours Feb - 3 hours Mar - 5 hours (includes 3 hours for March Break)
	Peterborough Library	Toddler Time Story Time	Fall/Winter/Spring Year-round
	Lakefield Library	Toddler Time Story Time Xmas Break	Winter Tuesday & Wednesday
	Otonabee - South Monaghan Library	Wiggles, Giggles and Songs	Tuesdays
	Riverview Zoo (Fee)	Zoo Crew Story/Craft/Animal Time	July & August Fall & Winter
	YMCA (Fee)	6 programs; (e.g. Yoga, Dance, Play)	30 minutes, all days of the week (not Sunday)
	Wellness Centre (Fee)	Swimming (e.g. starfish, duck)	30 minutes x 10 weeks
Preschool	PFRC	Kids in the Kitchen, Story and a Song, Come Play and Sing	Jan - 3 hours Feb - 3 hours Mar - 8 hours (includes 6 hours for March Break)
	Apsley Library	TD Summer Reading	Over the summer
	Wellness Centre (Fees for all programs)	6 programs; Crafts; music; play; gym	Various hours and length of program

Type of Program	Service Provider	Examples	Hours Offered
	Wellness Centre	7 programs; moving; circle; bugs; muck	30 – 60 minutes x 10 weeks
	Trent University (fees)	Aquatics (Level 1-5) Red Cross Swim	
	Trent University (fees)	Adaptive Intro to swim (Special Needs)	
	Canoe Museum (fees)	Canoes Count! Help Them Get Home Canoe Senses	
School-age	PFRC	Making Learning Fun, Come "PLAY"	Jan - 1 hour Feb - 1.5 hours Mar - 3.5 hours (includes 2 hours for March Break)
	Peterborough Library	Lego	7 weeks
	Riverview Zoo (fees)	Meet the Keeper Conservation Education Program	June, July & August June, July & August June, July & August
Parent Workshops	PFRC	Toilet training your child, Every parents survival guide, Triple P	Jan – 2 hours Feb – 7.5 hours Mar – 2 hours
Parent Partnered Workshops	PFRC	Feeding your baby, Not what I expected	Jan – 16 hours Feb – 24 hours Mar – 25.5 hours
CPNP	PFRC	Babies First	4 hours per week
CAPC	PFRC	Steps and Stages Families Connect Norwood Best Start School for Young Moms	20 hours per week
CPNP & CAPC	Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre	Crafty Kids, Daddy and Me, Healthy Eating/Cooking	

## **Appendix G - Hours of Programming in Nearby Communities**

The chart below depicts the average monthly hours of program delivery offered in March, April and May (2017) for each age range and type of program offered in the communities of Peterborough, Northumberland and the City of Kawartha Lakes:

