

NORTH LAMBTON CHILDCARE CENTRE

Message from the Board President – 2021

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the North Lambton Child Care Annual General Meeting for 2021. On behalf of the board of directors I would like to thank you all for taking the time to join us tonight. We are so grateful to be able to meet together, in person, this year for our AGM, after 2 years of meeting virtually. 2021 proved to be another unique year.

The Board was fortunate to welcome two new members in 2021! Marissa Thoren and Ellen Brown, thank you for joining our team during a super challenging time! We appreciated that you jumped right in to help where needed. After a couple of years of virtual board meetings, we were grateful to finally have a chance to meet in person again this spring.

For parents, the board recognizes how challenging it has been using childcare services during the pandemic. Many new policies and procedures were put into place regarding health and safety, PPE, screening, sick days, drop off and pickup, cohorts, etc. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding of the policies put in place during this unique time. You have supported us by respecting these policies. And we were able to support you by not invoicing for any COVID-related absences and by holding your children's daycare spots during school lockdowns. While schools were closed from April – June 2021, NLCC was able to further support families by offering Emergency Child Care to 48 school age children in 3 communities (Forest, Watford, Grand Bend).

Even though there was fear and challenges, our staff showed up every day and put a smile on under their masks and made sure that the children had positive experiences. We know how excited you were to be able to remove the masks and safety glasses this spring! We cannot thank you enough for enduring and continuing to endure the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19. You have served our families and our community well. We also would like to specially acknowledge the EarlyON staff whose role was completely turned upside down. For most of the last year the early on has been offering only virtual programming. The creativity and ability to step outside their comfort zone and learn new things has been incredible and very appreciated. When EarlyON's were once again able to welcome families in person, the staff quickly adjusted and welcomed us with open arms.

One of the board's favourite decisions that was made this year was to reward all of our hardworking staff with a wage increase. It has been a goal of ours for a couple of years. Last year, at the AGM, NLCC introduced the Employee Wage Reserve Fund. After providing a couple of years of bonuses, the board approved a \$2.00 wage increase for our staff that took effect Jan. 2022. Each and every one of you put so much effort into our programs on a daily basis, and we are pleased to thank you in this way.

Lastly, I personally would like to recognize all the hard work and dedication that our Executive Director Claire has given us during this time. Claire worked tirelessly to ensure that we had up to date information and guidance from Public Health as well as the government and the County. Claire, I am truly impressed with your dedication to us as a centre. Your number one priority has always been to keep our staff and children safe.

Thank you again NLCC staff for all that you do. As a board of directors, we are very proud of your hard work, and the care that you offer. My time on the board of directors is now finished and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working with all of you. My boys and I have been attending the EarlyON programs for 9 years. And I have loved having my children attend NLCC for the past 8 years. You have shown them love and they loved you in return. Keep up the good and important work you are doing!

Trish Anderson

NLCC Board President