



*Making good things happen in our community!*

March 23rd, 2022

Dear Mayor Soever and Mr. Starr,

The purpose of this letter is to request that Beaver Valley Outreach (BVO) be considered as the preferred provider of daycare services in the new Campus of Care.

In 2023, BVO will celebrate 40 years of providing this community with quality programs and services for children, families, individuals and seniors. What began with a small group of people giving out food and clothing to some families in need has blossomed into a registered charity (888625191RR0001) that runs 17 programs, including a Treasure Shop and licensed childcare.

Last year our BVO Preschool celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At full capacity it accommodates 24 preschoolers and 15 toddlers in a specially designed portable and play area on the grounds of Beaver Valley Community School (BVCS). Deemed an essential service during the latter part of COVID, it enabled those working outside the home to have a safe place for their children. Our experienced staff provide excellent programming and care in full compliance with all government requirements.

If we were successful in being allocated space in the new Campus of Care, we estimate that we would be able to increase our enrollment to 48 preschoolers and 30 toddlers. Currently we have a long waiting list for those needing daycare and these extra spaces would be welcome. Since we would need to hire at least 3 additional trained early childhood educators to meet licencing requirements, it would help to be able to offer attainable housing to these individuals, given the difficulty in finding affordable accommodation here in The Blue Mountains.

Freeing up our portable would mean that we would have dedicated space for two of our other programs which now operate in rented facilities. Our Kids Club is an after school program now run at BVCS, but not always in the same space and subject to other school needs. EarlyON is a morning program for children 0-6 years and parents/caregivers which shares space in the small room at the Community Centre. Both of these programs could be expanded to meet a growing demand in our community.

It is our hope that you will consider Beaver Valley Outreach's long-time experience and success with children's programs when you are deciding on the most suitable provider for a daycare centre in the Campus of Care.

Sincerely,

  
Cathy Innes, Chair  
Beaver Valley Outreach Board of Directors

  
Carolyn Letourneau, Executive Director  
Beaver Valley Outreach

cc Councillor Andrea Matrosovs  
Shawn Everitt, CAO