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To Whom It May Concern:

As of June 2016 Growing Concern Child Care Centre has to vacate their present location at 385 Hill Street here in London. Present plans are to demolish this building however I now understand that there is some hope that the building can be saved. That would be wonderful due to the fact it is a beautiful set-up and a central location for our services to continue. Servicing families in the SoHo district, emergency services, hospital employees or general families in the London community is our core focus.

Growing Concern Child Care Centre which was established in 1985 had the opportunity and good fortune to expand their services of offering quality child care to children ages 0-5 years old and a School Age program during school breaks for children 5 - 12 years of age. Initially we were licensed to take care of 50 children and with approximately 300 families on our waiting list expansion was imperative. In 1994 we relocated from the Victoria Hospital campus of LHSC to our present location at the South Street Annex.

At present we are licensed for 175 daily child care spaces plus an additional 20 spaces for 3 months a year, Christmas, March Break and summer vacation. With our 38 professional staff we are able to meet the child care needs of the over 230 families enrolled for our daily program. In June of 2015 we have provided services to families for 30 years. The Centre has many times experienced children who were with us as infants and have now enrolled their own children. Talk about feeling old, but with that, comes experience.

Growing Concern is the only child care facility in the city to offer extended care (longer operating hours), part-time (less than 5 days per week or half day days depending on the parent's needs) and flex care (minimum of 4 days per month). The various services were developed to meet the ongoing needs of employees on shift work or those having part-time or full-time employment. These services result in more flexible job opportunities being able to juggle family and job.

I was quite excited to hear that there still could be a possible future at our present location. For over a year potential sites have been investigated only to find out that they don't or couldn't meet our Ministry's legislation. Because LHSC fully subsidized our rent, utilities, repairs and maintenance, we were able to set aside funds that could be used for refurbishing the existing building. We are grateful to LHSC for their vision and their ongoing support.

We have an existing program with a strong reputation for quality. We have the trained staff and a superior facility. It would be a disappointment if this is lost when we are truly ready to continue. We have many subsidized families funded by the City of London and also a General Operating Grant from the City of London to offset our costs. The parent

fees however will always remain our main source of revenue.

Being established for 30 years, offering various child care services to families, being in a prime location for many families and staying in such a structurally sound building with lots of outdoor space are all sound reasons not to go through the costs of relocating and starting all over.

The Centre employs 38 staff. There is a risk that if a facility of equal size and quality cannot be found, the child care license will be reduced and accordingly downsizing will result leading to lost jobs.

Please consider all of these benefits when giving consideration to the alternative uses of this property. From all of the staff and the 230 families at the Centre we thank you for the opportunity to express our feeling and our commitment.

To truly appreciate the value of the Centre, I encourage you to arrange a tour. It is more than just bricks and mortar. Once you see first hand the quality of the care, the exceptional facilities and the smiling faces of the children and their parents, you will know why we have successfully operated the largest day care in London.

I was the Director of this day care when it originated 30 years ago. It was truly my baby. Our staff has cared for every child that came through here as if it was their own. Leaving such a great facility and ending such a remarkable success story would be very disappointing. Thanks again for your consideration and please feel free to call me if you should have any questions.

Yours truly,

Susan Gregory