

The Journey Together

Reported on April 10, 2018

- The Province of Ontario recently announced 3.7 M for the construction and operation of an Indigenous-led Child and Family Centre in London.
- In addition, Province of Ontario announced just over \$100,000 for culturally safe spaces across London and Middlesex through the Journey Together initiative.
- The Journey Together initiative is a response to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action.
- The Journey Together identifies developing culturally appropriate early childhood education for Indigenous families as a way to address these calls to action.
- To support this process we have been engaging with Indigenous families to understand the challenges they face.
- We heard that access to quality, Indigenous-led programming that supports families with young children is critical.
- In addition to quality early years programming, we heard that families want culturally relevant programming.
- We heard that families:
 - Want to learn their language and culture together with their children
 - Want a place where all Nations were welcomed
 - Want a place to call their own
- We are in the early days of planning and our next step is to find a location for the Child and Family Centre in London.
- We hope to have the Child and Family Centre built by the end of 2019.
- As part of the Journey Together planning we have also submitted a request for an 88 space Indigenous-led licensed child care centre that will be integrated with the Child and Family centre
- A Request for Proposals will be posted on the City website on Bids&Tenders for interested and qualified organizations to make a submission.
- A panel will review the submission using criteria developed by members of the planning Committee. The panel will include members of the Planning Committee, a caregiver from the community, potentially an elder and City of London staff.
- Following this review, those submission that meet the criteria will be invited to complete a more detailed RFP
- We will continue to plan and engage with families throughout this process.

Updated April 5, 2018