

# Executive Director's Report 2019

*Executive Director, Caterina Pace*

**Our amalgamated reports will be posted on our Websites**

[www.riverparkwaychildrenscentre.ca](http://www.riverparkwaychildrenscentre.ca)

[www.riverheightschildrenscentre.ca](http://www.riverheightschildrenscentre.ca)

Good evening and welcome to our first virtual Annual General Meeting, my name is Caterina Pace, and I am the Executive Director of River Parkway Children's Centre Corporation. (River Heights Children's Centre.) The 2019 annual general meeting this year looks a little different than all the previous annual general meetings due to the Covid 19 global pandemic. This AGM will encompass the fiscal year ending in December 2019 and share a small glimpse of some of the changes that have impacted childcare in 2020.

I would like to start with a quote from "How Does Learning Happen" that resonated with what we do daily.

"There is perhaps no relationship that holds greater responsibility or reward than the relationships we develop with children. We all know that the stronger our partnerships and the deeper and more valuable our connections, the greater the benefit. It is an investment that allows us all to grow."

This statement from How Does

Learning Happen, Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years

demonstrates what our organization has focused on in 2019 as a priority.

As I reflect on 2019, I am pleased that we continue to strengthen our Child Care Centres commitment to children and families. We know from our

research and pedagogy the importance of getting the early years right. The Early Years stage is the foundational stage that sets the standards for learning and development and care for children from birth to 5 years of age.

In early 2019 the City of Ottawa approved RPCC for an accessibility and affordability grant to support our ongoing programming for children 0-4. The grant provided us with additional General Operating Funding, to provide more affordable and accessible childcare for families. In addition, the grant also enabled us to provide part- time childcare options and support families in need of fee subsidies who otherwise could not access childcare. Thank you to the City of Ottawa.

The grant also provided us the necessary resources to purchase and maintain our private online service “Storypark”. This tool helps teachers, parents and families work together to share and record our children’s learning.

All our Educators are continually creating stimulating environments and documenting much of the play-based learning that is happening daily and sharing these stories with the families.

This evening I would like to focus on the accomplishments of both of our childcare Centres.

- Both Centres qualified for grants from the Government of Canada Summer Student Program. The Centres availed of the students to support the extra summer programming and in return this provided an opportunity for the students for future learning opportunities.
- All our employees have recertified their First Aid and Level C CPR, and all have completed their Criminal Reference requirements.

- River Heights Children's Centre installed professional roadside signage to advertise our childcare services. This certainly gave us more visibility which increased our overall access to service.
- We slowly transitioned to online banking for our corporation. Our parents were very grateful for this service.
- We increased our online and community presence by way of Facebook, Website, and social media outlets. (Thank you Ashley)

As we look forward to the future, we are excited about the opportunities to build upon our current strengths and will continue to deliver quality Early Learning and Care for many more years to come. We are encouraged by the Provincial government's contributions to support families and young children. The Ontario's childcare and early years system increased childcare spaces in Ontario by 5%. and invested over two billion dollars in childcare and early years funding. This is great news that also supports children's early years and development.

Some of our upcoming goals include-

- Continuing to use "Storypark" to document each child's individual learning and development.
- Professional Signage for our River Parkway Children's Centre site.
- Update all our internal professional policies to reflect governance during a global pandemic. (General preparedness)
- I wish to acknowledge the Board of Directors, our team of Registered Early Childhood Educators, the Management Team, Cooks and Support Staff for all their dedication and commitment to their roles. I also extend our thanks to the City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario, and

our other partners for their support in enabling us to serve the Ottawa community.

Next, I will highlight the program supervisor reports which will focus on the individual enriching activities celebrated throughout the year.

I would like to take a few moments to briefly highlight how the global pandemic has impacted both River Parkway and River Heights Children's Centres.

- In 2020 Our Centres were closed from March 16- July 6. (16 weeks)
- We received partial government grants to keep the organisation viable and able to reopen at less than overall capacity.
- Prior to gradually reopening on July 6 all our employees had to undergo some Pandemic professional development. Ottawa Public Health Facilitated training of staff with respect to outbreak prevention and control measures and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- We all added new terms to our professional vocabulary such as PPE, personal protective equipment, Cohorts, workplace bubbles, COVID position, Guidance Manuals, Pandemic Plans, physical distancing, lockdowns, asymptomatic. Etc.....
- We developed a system that ensures accurate records of staff and children's attendance, as well up-to-date contact information for staff and students that can be accessed in a timely manner for investigations and communications
- Everyone entering the building is screened and their temperature must be taken. Children are escorted from the front door to their program rooms by staff and returned to their parents at the front door at the end of the day by employees.
- Temperatures are also repeated throughout the day.
- Everyone is required to Hand wash/sanitize upon entering the premises and throughout the day.
- All high touch surfaces are disinfected several times daily, indoors, and outdoors. All toys are single use and disinfected.

- Near daily communication with the parents, Ottawa Public Health, and the Ministry of Education Child Care division for every suspected case. We Communicate with families about COVID-19 prevention measures and how those who have tested positive for COVID 19 and outbreaks will be supported.

We will continue this annual report at our 2021 Annual General Meeting. Although both of our Centres are not functioning at full capacity, we are doing our part in keeping Covid-19 transmission low to help prevent the introduction of the virus into our Centres. I can attest that everyone is supporting one another, and all our families and employees continue to be healthy and safe.