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District of Barriere
Box 219, 4936 Barriere Town Road
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0

Dear Council,

I am writing to propose that part of the HY Louis Building rejuvenation be reserved for a purpose-built child-care facility as this service is desperately needed in our growing community.

I have owned and operated Wild Hearts Child Care since 2019. It is a licensed multiage childcare facility located in the lower level of my personal residence. Apart from myself, I have a full-time Infant/Toddler Early Childhood Educator employed at the daycare. We are currently licensed for a total of eight full time childcare spaces. Three of those spaces are dedicated to children under 3 years old.

Currently, all eight of our spaces are full. I have a waitlist of 15+ families who are waiting for "under 3" childcare spaces to open between now and 2024. It's possible that most of the children waiting will "age-out" of the spaces before one even becomes available with the situation the way that it is. With more families moving to Barriere, we desperately need more childcare spaces and fast.

One of the challenges of creating more child care spaces, is the nonexistence of suitable commercial space to purchase or lease in the area. By dedicating 2000 - 3000sq ft of the building rejuvenation to child care, we would double the numbers of families we can serve. With more staff, we could potentially run a specific Infant/Toddler room with 8 "under 3" spaces, and a 3-5 room with 8 spaces.

I have had the pleasure of calling Barriere my home since 2018. As a childcare operator, I am one of the first calls that people make when planning the move to our town. In the last year alone, I have noticed the rapid increase of young families moving here. Barriere is an attractive to any young family looking for small town living with lots of recreation, and within an hour of a larger city centre. As more houses are being built and our town grows, more industry is moving closer to Barriere which is creating many jobs in the region. Unfortunately, Barriere lacks any childcare spaces for children 3 or younger, leaving many parents unable to work. By allocating space for child care, we can have a positive impact on industry growth in the surrounding area.

Additionally, with a licensed child care facility in our downtown core, we are able to partner with local colleges and universities to offer practicums with job placement opportunities to local members of our community; This is significant as the ECE field is struggling to attract and keep graduates in the field.



Since opening, Wild Hearts Child Care has had an impeccable reputation for quality programming in Barriere. I am passionate about providing quality Early Childhood Education to our community and I strive to be a resource that parents can count on during their children's Early Years. I urge you to approve our proposal for a dedicated child care space in the rejuvenation of the HY Louis building

I would be happy to provide more specific details, such as building/licensing requirements, if this proposal moves forward.

Sincerely yours,

Lauren Jackson, ECE SN
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