

From: [Heather Doner](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for 2025 rental cost amendment, DFRFR
Date: December 9, 2024 4:08:01 PM

Good afternoon Brock Township Council,

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter. I am writing on behalf of Durham Farm and Rural Family resources, to request an amended rental rate continuation, for our use of the upper room at the Rick MacLeish Memorial Community Centre.



Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources has been operating for over 30 years, supporting the well-being of children and families of North Durham Region. Particularly in Cannington, where we have rented the upper room of the Rick MacLeish arena on Monday & Friday mornings for families to drop in for programming, we have always had a very large attendance. We get up to 40 people per morning, benefitting from our free EarlyON programming here.

Being in the North, social support resource isolation is a challenge for many young families in Brock Township. Many families with young children are not able to easily travel to cities in the South to access their needs. Even then, the wait lists are often very long to be seen.

DFRFR EarlyON is a very long-standing (almost 3 decades at the Cannington site), well utilized charity, with cost-free services to all participants. Being able to utilize the upper room of the arena for this many years, has allowed thousands of successful participant visits to occur, and has greatly impacted the health and well-being of our local residents.

Our community relies on us and our ability to offer services at a central location, free of charge at the arena. We serve as a cornerstone access point for families to gain connection to resources that aid the health and wellbeing of children and their parents. We provide direct support for mental health, as well as developmental well-being. We host many valuable community partners within our space and program times, who otherwise would miss out on meeting our participant families at those times.

Recently, we hosted a very successful 'Ready Set Grow' event where we acted as a hub for many community partner organizations to attend, while parents and caregivers could speak to them directly and access valuable connections. This included hosting Brock Community Health Centre, The Nourish and Develop Foundation, Family and Community Action Program, Durham Region Public Health and many others (Please see flyer attached).

At DFRFR EarlyON, we study and adapt our programs based on Durham Regions EDI scores, and facilitate better school readiness outcomes for the surrounding schools in Cannington and Brock Township. This supports early learning success for students entering the school system at McCaskill's Mills Public School, as well as other surrounding schools in Brock.

We help families to thrive, and to reach their full potential. We help parents and children to cope with challenges from the prenatal stage, up to when their children are 6 years of age. We know that to proactively support our communities, is to also reduce crisis rates in our families in the North. We teach parenting skills, model positive parenting strategies, and connect parents to essential resourcing for their children's behavioural and developmental needs. Having early intervention and proactive support greatly increases families' capacities to cope with ever growing stressors in their environments. Together, we can help reduce adverse childhood effects and crises, for young families in our communities.

It would be an absolute benefit to the township as a whole, to facilitate our continuation of services, as we are a community resource, not a club or company, attempting to afford continued rental of the space, which has been a home for us during our very long-standing relationship there. We are hoping to rent the space at a reduced rate for 32 dates, following the school calendar on Mondays & Friday mornings, for the 2025 year. Many of these 32 dates, arena staff are required to be in the building already for other duties, and so the door is easily already unlocked for our needs. This added income that DFRFR pays as rent, although subsidized, can help add income towards Brock Township's budgeting. It would also continue to allow the community to affiliate the arena with a positive experience for their children from a young age, and to learn about the other Township recreation programs that are available during their time there.

We have enjoyed using this space to serve local families and would greatly appreciate the ability to continue renting

the space. On behalf of Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources EarlyON, I would humbly request a continuation of our adjusted lower rate rental fee of the upper room space of Rick MacLeish Community Centre. We would love to be able to continue serving the community here, and to support our growing community with the high quality of services we provide.

Many studies have proven child development and mental health support in the first 6 years of life are crucial for life-long wellbeing. We ask that the Township of Brock help us continue providing the citizens of Cannington and surrounding communities the best quality of life as possible. By helping us to support our youngest residents and their families, you are investing in their futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Heather Doner


Executive Director, RECE

Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources

www.durhamfamilyresources.org

[REDACTED]





Do you have questions about your child's development, learning, speech, or behaviour?

Come visit:

Ready, Set, Grow

Monday June 10, 2024

EarlyON Brock, Rick MacLeish Arena
91 Elliot St., Cannington
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The EarlyON Child and Family Centres are offering a **FREE** drop in for parents/caregivers of children birth to six years. Bring your children and ask questions about development, learning, speech, and behaviour.

Professionals from the following agencies will be present:

- Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports
- Durham Region Health Department
- Family and Community Action Program
- Infant and Child Development
- And more!

For more information contact Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 or visit

durham.ca/childdevelopment



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