



CITY OF *Lethbridge*

Office of the City Clerk

December 22, 2023

RE: NOTICE OF HEARING - SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

An appeal has been filed against the Development Permit approved by the Development Officer on November 28, 2023 for a fence height waiver at 250 McMaster Boulevard West.

When an appeal is filed with the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB), all persons who own property within 200 feet or 60 meters of the development are notified of the hearing by way of this letter. In addition, the owner of the property will also receive a copy of this letter.

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) will hold a Public Hearing as follows:

DATE:	Thursday, January 11, 2024
TIME:	6:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Council Chamber, Main Floor, City Hall 910 – 4 Avenue South

Persons affected by this development have the right to present a written, verbal and/or visual submission to the Board. When making a presentation, keep in mind that in accordance with the legislation that governs the SDAB, the Board can only consider relevant planning matters when rendering its decision. It is recommended that you limit your presentation to five minutes.

If you wish to submit written material to the Board, it should be delivered to the Secretary of the SDAB via email at david.sarsfield@lethbridge.ca, **including your full name and mailing address** no later than 12:00 noon on the Tuesday prior to the hearing. If you are unable to meet this submission deadline, please bring 12 copies of the materials to the Hearing and it will be distributed at the start of the Hearing. Any written and/or visual material received will be made available to the public.

We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the appeal and can also provide information or advice on Board procedures and how to make presentations to the Board. Please feel free to contact me at 403 329 7329 if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

David Sarsfield
Board Secretary,
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

December 13, 2023

To: Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
City Clerk's Office
2nd Floor, 910-4 Avenue South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6

From: Rita Law
3 Temple Blvd. W
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 4T1

Re: 250 McMaster Blvd W, DEV 14862
Low Density Residential
Waiver, Fence Height – Front Yard

I begin by thanking the members of the Development Appeal Board for their service. I recognize that it is a difficult task with much material to wade through.

I am, in the strongest terms possible, against extending a waiver for a fence in the front yard for the daycare business at 250 McMaster Blvd.

Following are my reasons for opposing the granting of this waiver:

1. It can reasonably be assumed that the fencing being applied for is to facilitate the business adding more children in that new fenced space or to spread out the children currently enrolled. This increased space will also open the door to the daycare being able to grow to a child care major classification. This daycare business was approved June 21, 2019 (Enc. 1) despite the expressed, firm opposition by more than 150 people in the neighbourhood. The opposition primarily focused on the safety of adding additional traffic on an already busy pedestrian and vehicular route. McMaster Blvd. was identified by the City traffic department, specifically by Mr. Ali, to be a super collector, using traffic count numbers from 2016. The 2019 census shows a 7.8% increase in the West population from 2016 to 2019 and a further 7% increase from 2019 to 2023. (Enc. 2) The traffic department failed to take into consideration this increase in traffic when supporting the original daycare application. I have called Mr. Ali to ask for

the most recent traffic count numbers for McMaster and Temple but have not received a call back at the time of this writing. In the absence of data, those of us who live in the neighbourhood can assure you that traffic has increased exponentially since the 2016 traffic count. We see clients of the daycare pulling into the loading zone and then backing out into the busy traffic on McMaster. If more children are added there will be more traffic.

2. Parking was also a concern expressed by those opposed to the 2019 application. The Business indicated that 100% of their parking will happen on their property, or the designated loading zone in front of their property. (Enc. 3) This has proven to not be the case. In the Development Appeal Committee meeting in June of 2019 the applicant changed their parking statement to say that their staff would park at the parking lot in Nicholas Sheran Park or be walking or ride sharing. Bylaw 6300 required them to have 9 on-site parking spaces, however, they were granted a waiver of 5 off street parking spaces (more than half of the requirement), thereby requiring 4 off street parking spaces, 2 of which were to be signed and designated for loading/unloading spaces, which means there are only 2 off street parking spaces for staff and 2 for loading/unloading. That puts as many as 7 staff vehicles parking on McMaster Blvd which impedes the view of the park for the resident to the immediate north of the daycare Business. It is not uncommon to see three vehicles parked side by side in the loading/unloading zone and other vehicles waiting on the west side of McMaster.

If the designation moves to child care major, more staff will be required and therefore, more parking on McMaster. People on McMaster made their purchasing decision based on the proximity and view of the park. This has been taken away from them and will only be exacerbated if a fence goes up and more children are enrolled, which means additional staff.

3. The 2019 Development Appeal Board took the opinion that the “additional traffic, noise, and parking do not present undue interference with the neighbourhood amenities and would not materially interfere with or affect the use, enjoyment or value of neighbouring properties. (Enc. 1)

This statement has proven to be patently untrue. There is most certainly additional traffic and the parking by the staff and parents is not reasonable. The approval of a waiver of more than half the parking required under Bylaw 6300 is evidence of the unreasonableness of parking.

Most certainly the noise has significantly presented undue interference with the use and enjoyment of our property and that of the property to the immediate north. The sound of the children playing in the yard was described as joyful and melodic. To the contrary, when the children are outside the sounds are screaming and screeching to the point that during the months when we would normally be enjoying our back yard, the screaming and screeching is so loud that we cannot hold a conversation and have had to retreat to the front yard or inside to even be heard. The applicant has built a pergola and deck in the back yard that is immediately adjacent to our fence. The deck has some kind of harness apparatus. (Enc. 4) Yes, this does generate significant noise. Last week, in addition to the usual screaming and screeching, children were loading rocks into buckets and dropping the rocks down the slide. Be assured that the resulting clatter was not the melodic, joyful sound of children playing. It was a very jarring, irritating noise. A new play area in the front will now render our entire outdoor property unusable when the children are outside. Further to the noise issue, it is not uncommon that the screaming and screeching noise is loud enough that it is a disturbance even when we are inside our home behind closed doors. Please do not be overly influenced by the notion that this is a daycare and daycare spaces are needed. That is an unarguable fact. But also, be aware that there are no less than six childcare centres within a 10-minute walk of this property, in addition to family day homes. I suggest that this neighbourhood is at its saturation point for daycares, especially when considering that the growth on the West side is further to the west and not in this neighbourhood. A 3 meter fence provides no noise abatement.

4. The Planning and Design office has indicated to the applicant that no waiver is required for the proposed 2 meter fence on the west side of their property. This fence is in my front yard and the Land Use Bylaw restricts fence height in a front yard to 1 meter. I have tried to have this error corrected by the Planning and Design office to no avail. In fact, Ms. Gehring

told me to walk over to 2 and 6 Eton Road and I would see that they are the same as our situation. She could not be more wrong. There is an alley between those two properties and neither has a 2 meter fence in the front yard of a neighbouring property. Ms. Olsen, Ms. Tittsworth and Ms. Gehring from the Planning and Design office are insisting that the proposed fence on the west in the rendering is the applicant's side yard and therefore a 2 meter fence is allowed. In considering the site drawing distributed with the "Notice to Neighbours" (Enc. 5) and comparing it to Bylaw 6300 as it pertains to fences (Enc. 6), you can see that the two renderings are not similar due to the pie shape of the two adjoining properties on McMaster and Temple. When I attended at the Planning and Design office to get clarification, I was told that the applicant could build a 2 meter fence on the west side of the property since it was their side yard yet if I wanted to build a fence on the same line it could be only 1 meter since it was my front yard. Does that not strike you as absolutely the height of bureaucratic ridiculousness? It also reeks of imbalanced support for the daycare at my expense?

5. The City's Design Standards provide designers with clear direction about the vision of building and maintaining a(n)attractive . . . city." The installation of a 2 meter fence in any portion of the applicant's front yard or my front yard does not speak to maintaining an attractive city. It will be inconsistent with the neighbourhood along McMaster and Temple and will be an eyesore. The proposed 2 meter fence on my front yard and the 2 meter Temple fence will obstruct the view of Nicholas Sheran Park from my property. Ms. Gehring said that we can't see the park from our front yard now because our garage is in the way. She is mistaken. In the rendering provided by Planning and Design (Enc. 5) you can see the white line from the garage to our east property line and can observe that the garage does not block the sight line to the park which will most certainly be obstructed if the applicant is allowed to install a 2 meter fence in my front yard.
6. It is deeply troubling and frustrating that the applicant is seeking another waiver that will yet again negatively impact the ambience and style of the neighbourhood and will interfere, in a significant way, with the peaceful enjoyment of my property. I feel confident, based on experience with this business, that there will be no peaceful enjoyment of my property. I remind

you that this daycare Business is in a low density residential area. Child care minor is a discretionary use but I firmly believe that approving a daycare and then allowing significant waivers to the Bylaw is unreasonable and an affront to those negatively impacted.

I recognize that Bylaw 6300 is under review; however, the sections related to fences is not being reviewed until 2025. This will be too late for the appeal and the damage will have been done and irreversible.

I would also like to point out that Angie Olsen approved an increase from 30 children to 50 children at the 6 avenue daycare operated by these same applicants, citing consistent use. Further, the newly established daycare at 1 Dalhousie was originally for 34 children, 6 staff and a fence height waiver for the "short" front and side yards to allow a 7'6" fence height. The Development Officer approved the permit in June. In July there was an application to increase to 50 children and was approved by MPC in August. There were no appeals received. To me, these two examples of expanding the numbers of children in daycares is very troubling.

Again, I respectfully urge you to deny the requested waiver for a 2 meter fence in the front yard at 250 McMaster.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Respectfully submitted.

Rita Law



CITY OF
Lethbridge

Office of the City Clerk

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD DECISION

June 21, 2019

Re: Appeal of Development Permit No. 110773
Appellant: Edward Grant
Land Use: Low Density Residential (R-L)

Upon hearing representation made by the Development Officer, the Applicant, the Appellants, and other interested parties on Thursday, June 20 2019, it is the decision of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board that the appeal is **DENIED** and the decision of the Municipal Planning Commission regarding Development Permit DEV110773 on May 7, 2019 to allow the establishment of a childcare minor with 50 children and 9 staff members at 250 McMaster Boulevard West is hereby **CONFIRMED**.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

1. The traffic counts at Temple Boulevard and McMaster Boulevard West show there are low volumes in 2016 compared to other super collector roads in the City.
2. The proposed development will not significantly change the traffic count and flow.
3. The parking waiver is reasonable considering the number of available parking spaces on public roads.
4. The Board is of the opinion that the additional traffic, noise, and parking do not present undue interference with the neighbourhood amenities and would not materially interfere with or affect the use, enjoyment or value of neighbouring properties.

Note: It is recommended that a traffic count and analysis be done at the intersection of Temple Boulevard and McMaster Boulevard West in the Fall to determine if any upgrade to the signal is required.

An appeal against this decision may be made to the Alberta Court of Appeal on a question of law or jurisdiction only. Should you wish to do so, it is recommended that you retain legal counsel.

Please contact this Office if you have any questions regarding the decision. A copy of this decision has been mailed to the owner of the property, and the persons who filed the appeal.

Yours truly,

David Sarsfield, Board Secretary,
Subdivision & Development Appeal Board

cc City Solicitor
Development Officer
Appellants/Neighbouring Property Owners

LAW - ENG. 1



Land Use Bylaw 5700
DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

DEV110

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Decision

Address: 250 MCMASTER BLVD W
Legal: 7710705;31;15

District: R-L

Applicant: IRWIN, EVA
Address: 2 NORTHLANDER RD W LETHBRIDGE AB T1J 5G7

Phone: (403) 795-1120

Development Proposed To establish a childcare minor with 50 children and 9 staff members.
Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday (7 am - 5:30 pm)

District R-L LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Land Use CHILD CARE, MINOR - DISCRETIONARY

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD DECISION OF JUNE 20, 2019:

1. Maximum number of children: 50. Maximum number of staff: 9
The applicant must obtain and maintain the relevant provincial license.
2. Off-street Parking: A waiver of 5 off street parking spaces shall be granted, thereby requiring 4 off street parking spaces be provided and maintained for this use, 2 of which, must be signed and maintained for loading/unloading spaces.
3. Hours of operation: Monday thru Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Decision Date
Jun 21, 2019

Development Commencement shall be within one year of the decision date

Development Authority


ANGELA OLSEN, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

STATUTORY PLANS

The SSRP and applicable municipal statutory plans were considered in rendering this decision.

APPEALS

A decision of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board is final and is subject only to an appeal upon a question of law or jurisdiction pursuant to Section 688 of the Municipal Government Act, RSA, 2000, as amended.

FOIP

The personal information provided as part of this permit is collected under the Alberta Municipal Government Act and in accordance with section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The information is required and will be used for issuing permits, Land Use By-law 5700 compliance verification and monitoring, and property assessment purposes. The name of the permit holder and the nature of the permit is available to the public upon request and may be revealed in public appeal processes. If you have questions about the collection or use of the personal information provided, please contact Information Management at 910 4 Ave S Lethbridge, AB, T1J 0P6 or phone at (403) 329-7329, or email developmentsservices@lethbridge.ca.

Permit No. DEV11073

Census

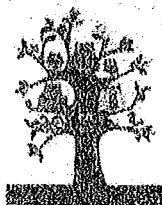
Census 2010-2023

The census has been conducted annually by the City of Lethbridge since 2005. The most recent results are listed below:

Year	South	West	North	Total	Percentage Increase
2023	33,309	43,793	29,448	106,550	4.99%
2019	32,412	40,898	28,172	101,482	1.72%
2018	32,109	39,960	27,700	99,769	1.60%
2017	31,660	39,085	27,453	98,198	1.41%
2016	31,720	37,929	27,179	96,828	2.13%
2015	31,337	36,716	26,751	94,804	1.94%
2014	31,176	35,377	26,451	93,004	2.86%
2013	30,655	33,988	25,774	90,417	1.51%
2012	30,795	32,847	25,432	89,074	1.36%
2011	30,504	32,063	25,315	87,882	1.41%
2010	30,142	31,399	25,118	86,659	1.37%

LAW-ENC 2

Post date is June 22, 2019. Accessed on November 16th, 2023.



Where The Wild Things Grow Early Learning Centre

2803 6 Avenue South Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 1E3
(587)425-4855



wherethewildthingsgrow@hotmail.ca

Where The Wild Things Grow Early Learning Centre Ltd.

Hello, we are looking at opening an Early Childhood Education program at 250 McMaster Blvd West. We currently run Where The Wild Things Grow Early Learning Centre Ltd. in South Lethbridge. Our hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We are closed all weekends, statutory holidays, and for over a week at Christmas. We will have 9 staff who will all park on our property. There will also be a designated loading zone for parents to drop off and pick up their children. We carpool at our current centre to create more parent parking, and to create less traffic. We have a great relationship with our current neighbours and hope to have the same here.

Common Concerns:

Traffic: McMaster Blvd and Temple Blvd are both collector roads, meaning they are capable and built to hold more traffic than other local roads. Parents drop off anywhere between 7:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., so it very staggered. Some parents walk or use public transportation cutting down on vehicles. Many families have multiple children that they drop off at once. Many parents or grandparents also keep children home for a day a week to spend extra time with them. At our current centre our capacity is 50, but most days we have a maximum of 42 children.

* **Parking:** 100% of our parking will happen on our property, or the designated loading zone in front of our property.

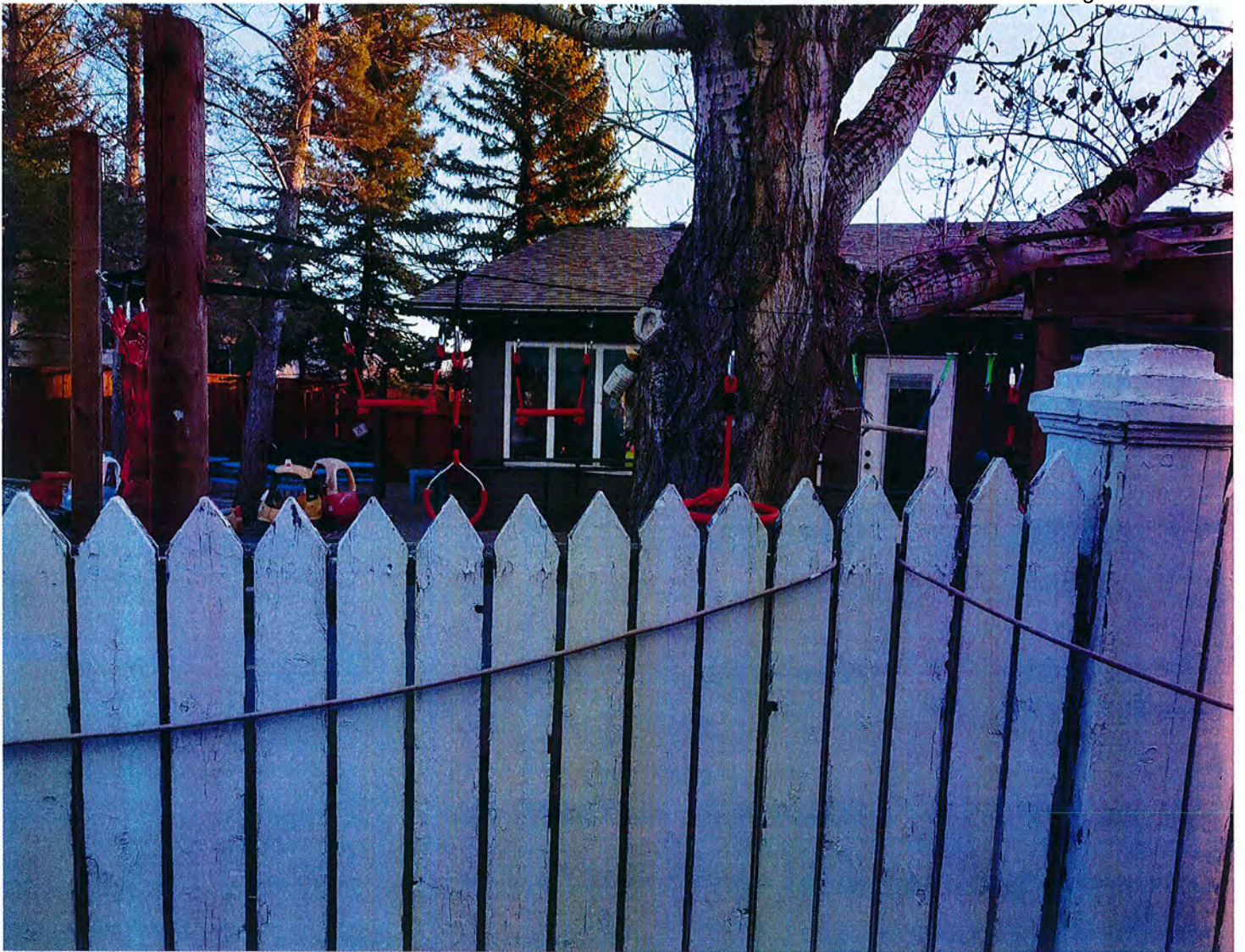
Noise: We will not go outside until 9:00 a.m. at the absolute earliest. We will be utilizing Nicholas Sheran Park as much as possible with weather permitting. Our current neighbours have said they have never heard us indoors, and often don't notice us in the backyard.

Yard Maintenance: If it snows over the holidays or on weekends we come in and maintain the sidewalks and driveway. We try our best to blend in with the neighbourhood, and keep our lawn and gardens well maintained.

We believe children are a valuable and important part of our community who do best in home like settings. West Lethbridge is booming, and in desperate need of quality child care. We hope to provide families in this area with the quality care needed. Kinder-care has recently been discontinued in the local schools, so we hope to walk the children to and from school and help fill this needed service in the community.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to call, or email us and ask for Caitlin, Keira or Julianne. We also have a website if you're curious. We would like to work with you to create positive relationships.

LAW-ENG. 3

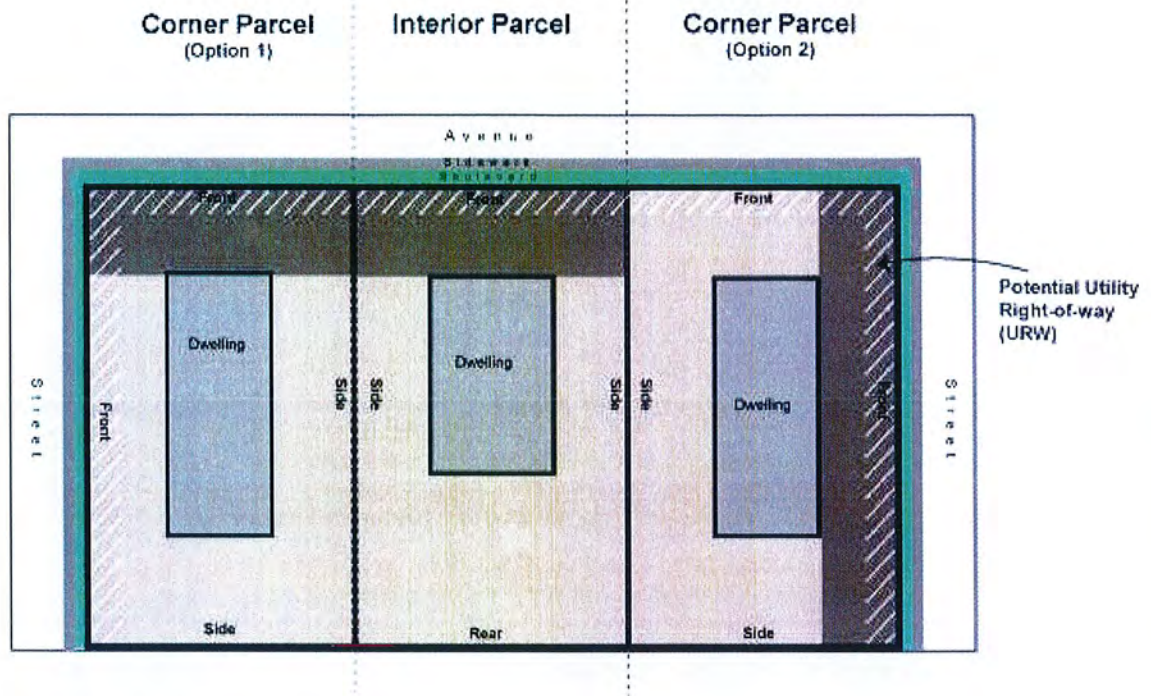


LAW-Enc 4



2.0 m fence requires waiver

LAW-Enc5



LEGEND	
■	Max. Fence Height: 1.0m
■	Max. Fence Height: 2.0m
—	Property Line

WAC- Enc 6

Dwaine Law
3 Temple Blvd W
Lethbridge Alberta T1K 4T1

Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
2nd Floor, 910 4 Avenue South,
Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P6

RE: 250 McMaster Blvd. West. Waiver for fence height in front yard

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board,

I reside in the home immediately to the west of 250 McMaster Blvd West.

I am a retired Police Officer who has training and experience with accident investigation and reconstruction.

As we take a larger look at the intersection of McMaster Blvd W and Temple Blvd W, there are some notable points to consider.

The street traffic flow was upgraded by the City Traffic Division when the daycare received a waiver and was approved to locate at 250 McMaster Blvd West. McMaster traffic allowing up to 15,000 vehicles per day and Temple Blvd up to 8,000 vehicles per day. Both streets are major traffic arteries. If that has changed, we were never notified. Last full traffic study was 2016.

The overhead crosswalk signal was removed from McMaster Blvd W, and a three way stop added. This remains a busy access for pedestrian and cycle traffic to and from Nicholas Sheran Park, and the elementary school.

Both the northwest and southwest corners of the intersection are stocked with the orange scooters and bicycles for the summer and mild seasons. This causes not only a distraction but also some visual obstruction. There is a high usage of these bicycles and scooters in the neighborhood.

With the school located north on McMaster and the Park on the east of McMaster, there is high pedestrian traffic. There is no reported pedestrian count from the City of Lethbridge.

The daycare clients have added to the traffic flow at this intersection. Numerous daycare clients fail to use the drop off / loading zone at the front driveway of 250 McMaster Blvd W; and pull around the corner onto Temple Blvd W, causing a distraction to other drivers and blocking the view for others while unloading and loading their children. The excess pedestrian traffic on the grass boulevard of Temple Blvd has caused severe damage to the grass, all by daycare clients loading and unloading their children.

The proposed Waiver to add a two meter fence to the fourth yard of 250 McMaster Blvd will add more restrictive sight problems to the current flow for vehicle, pedestrian, wildlife, bicycle, and scooter traffic.

The reduced line of site endangers and allows less reaction time for those maneuvering through this area and intersection. Protecting even one person is worth keeping the full line of site as open as possible.

The bylaw allows a city corner property to designate one of the two Street facing yards to be a side yard. The fourth side is allowed a one meter high fence.

Because a bylaw Waiver is requested, it does not mean the Waiver must be approved.

How many of the City Development Officers or Traffic Department employees have attended to and walked the area in question? Who has looked from the physical viewpoints and points of view of all those affected? Firsthand knowledge is most accurate.

With a one meter fence in the east yard of McMaster Blvd, all traffic would have a better, more full line of sight, giving everyone using the intersection a safer environment. With a high number of cars entering and backing out of the daycare, restricting any of the line of site will only add to the risk of accidents.

A second concern is the added, enlarged outdoor play area for the daycare on the south of their building that will increase the uncontrolled noise from the daycare.

City staff and the daycare have suggested the noise from the daycare children does not affect the neighbors. In fact, both have claimed the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled on daycare noise. That ruling has never been presented in fact and seems to be a rumor. If the ruling exists, please provide a copy of that ruling.

To those who determined the "melodic sound of children playing", 'would not affect neighbors' peaceful enjoyment and use of their own property were wrong. The attempt to see into the future and identify the screaming, screeching, and yelling we are subjected to was not addressed realistically or accurately.

The daycare originally suggested most residents in the community are away from their homes during the operating hours of the daycare. In this case both immediate neighbors are retired and are at home during the day. In fact, most local neighbors are retired individuals and are home most all day during the daycare operating hours. This was a poor inaccurate assumption on the part of the daycare. That fact has since been ignored by the City of Lethbridge and the daycare.

Expanding the two meter fence into the east yard and fourth side of the 250 McMaster property will increase the volume of noise from more children screaming, yelling, and screeching next to our front yard. We have lost the peaceful use of our back yard, now we will lose the peaceful use of all our yards while the daycare is in operation. What is right about that?

With our doors and windows closed, when children occupy the play areas of the daycare, the noise can be heard inside our home. We are forced to live with that constant excessive noise.

The daycare has no control over the children's noise or the affect it has on the neighbors, but we cannot enjoy our property because of the noise created by the children and staff of the daycare.

The daycare earns money, the city collects more taxes, and the neighbors pay the price of having to endure the uncontrolled noise, unable to enjoy their property during daycare business hours, in our low density residential area. All because the daycare can apply for waivers. The City Development Office can grant the waiver.

Our lives have 2,000 hours of excessive noise forced on us from the daycare every year. How are we compensated? Our concerns are dismissed, and we are ignored.

The daycare is catered to and granted exceptions and Waiver after Waiver to our detriment.

Does this City not serve residents of Lethbridge? As a Peace Officer I served to protect the public. The Lethbridge Development Office appears to serve the daycare rather than the general public. With the City Development Offices generous approval of numerous Waivers, why do we have bylaws when the bylaws seem to be disregarded and exceptions repeatedly allowed.

The intimate relationship which has existed between this daycare and Angela Olsen of the City Development Office and Mr. Ali of the City Traffic Department suggests concerns of a conflict and/or serious favoritism when dealing with the daycare Waiver requests.

Major Concerns:

Public Safety. Reducing line of site is dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, scooter riders, and motorists on the street and exiting private driveways. (i.e.: 250 McMaster Blvd W loading zone)

Increased Noise. The excess uncontrolled noise with the expanded play area, multiplied, if the additional 2 meter fence is allowed.

Future Waivers. With the possibility of three designated play areas at this daycare location, will there be an increase of more children? (More Uncontrollable Noise / More Traffic)



14 December 2023

Address: **250 MCMASTER BLVD W**
Legal: 7710705;31;15

District: R-L

Applicant: IRWIN, KEIRA
Address: 10 NORTHLANDER RD W LETHBRIDGE, AB T1J 5G6

Phone: (403) 327-2772

Development Proposed To request a fence height waiver in the front yard to provide additional play space for the children.

District R-L LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Land Use CHILD CARE, MINOR - PERMITTED

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

1. Compliance with the plans:

The development shall be in accordance with the plans submitted October 24, 2023. Any change to these plans requires the approval of the Development Officer and may, at the discretion of the Development Officer, require a new Development application.

A 1.0 m fence height waiver be granted, allowing the maximum fence height to be 2.0 m for the front section on the corner of McMaster Blvd and Temple Blvd.

Decision Date

Nov 28, 2023

Valid Date

Dec 28, 2023

Development Commencement

Provided this decision is not appealed, development shall commence:

- on or after the valid date, and
- within one year of the valid date.

Development may commence before the valid date only if the applicant has signed the "Voluntary Waiver of Claims" and is in receipt of this signed permit.

Development Authority

Leda K. Jittsworth

LEDA KOZAK TITTSWORTH

STATUTORY PLANS

The SSRP and applicable municipal statutory plans were considered in rendering this decision.

COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND AGREEMENTS

The City of Lethbridge assesses applications according to the development requirements and standards of the Land Use Bylaw in force at the time of application. This Development Permit does not relieve the owner, the applicant, or the owner's authorized agent from full compliance with (i) the terms and conditions of any easement, covenant, building scheme or other agreement affecting the property, or (ii) the requirements of any other applicable laws and regulations.

APPEALS

The applicant has the right to appeal this decision to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. An appeal shall contain a statement of the grounds of appeal and shall be delivered either personally or by Registered Mail so as to reach the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board not later than twenty-one (21) days after the decision date indicated on the Development Permit or 'Development Permit Application - Refused' letter.

Permits which were the subject of a license, permit, approval or other authorization granted by the Natural Resources Conservation Board, Energy Resources Conservation Board, Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, Alberta Utilities Commission, or by the Minister of Environment and Parks must be appealed through the Land and Property Rights Tribunal.

FOIP

The personal information provided as part of this permit is collected under the Alberta Municipal Government Act and in accordance with section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The information is required and will be used for issuing permits, Land Use By-law 6300 compliance verification and monitoring, and property assessment purposes. The name of the permit holder and the nature of the permit is available to the public upon request and may be revealed in public appeal processes.

If you have questions about the collection or use of the personal information provided, please contact Information Management at 910 4 Ave S Lethbridge, AB, T1J 0P6 or phone at (403) 329-7329, or email planninganddesign@lethbridge.ca.



Permit No. DEV14862

CITY OF Lethbridge
APPROVED
 AS PER
LAND USE BYLAW 6300
 Date: Nov 28, 2023
 Approval #: DEV14862
Leda K. Littleworth
 Development Officer



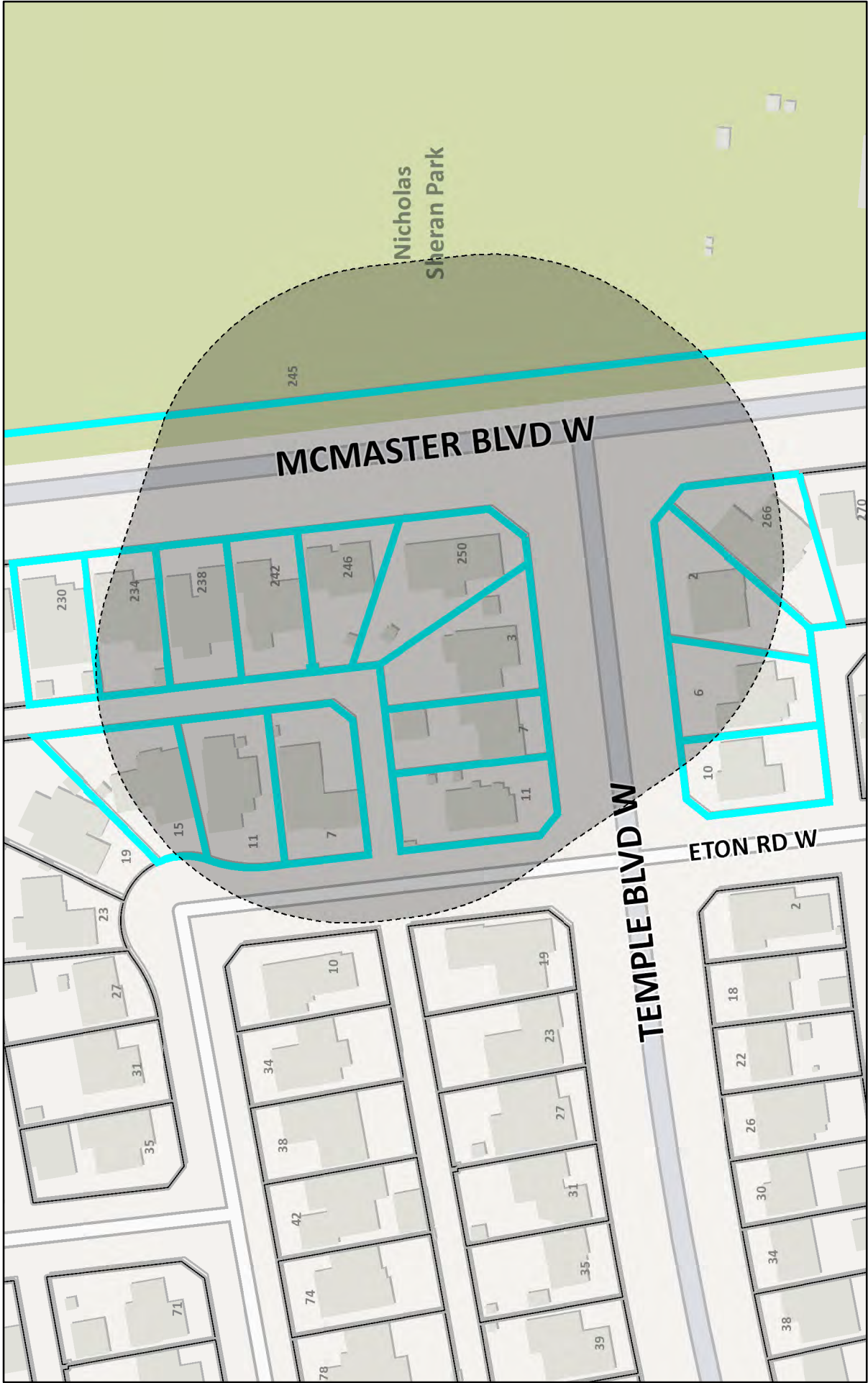
Proposed 6ft +

Temple

 - 2.0m (6ft) fence
 - 1.0m (3ft) fence

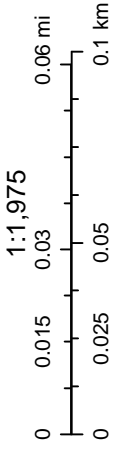
McMaster

Parcel Locator WebMAP



December 22, 2023

□ Parcels



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, Geobase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri



Development Authority's Written Submission

For the Subdivision and
Development Appeal Board
Hearing on January 11, 2024



APPLICATION NO.

DEV14862

LOCATION

250 McMaster Boulevard West

LAND USE DISTRICT

R-L Low Density Residential

APPELLANT

Dwaine Law & Rita Law

LANDOWNER

Eva Irwin

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT

Child Care, Minor

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

A request for a fence height waiver in the front yard.

Appendix A: Drawings

ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT

North

Single Detached Dwelling

South

Single Detached Dwelling

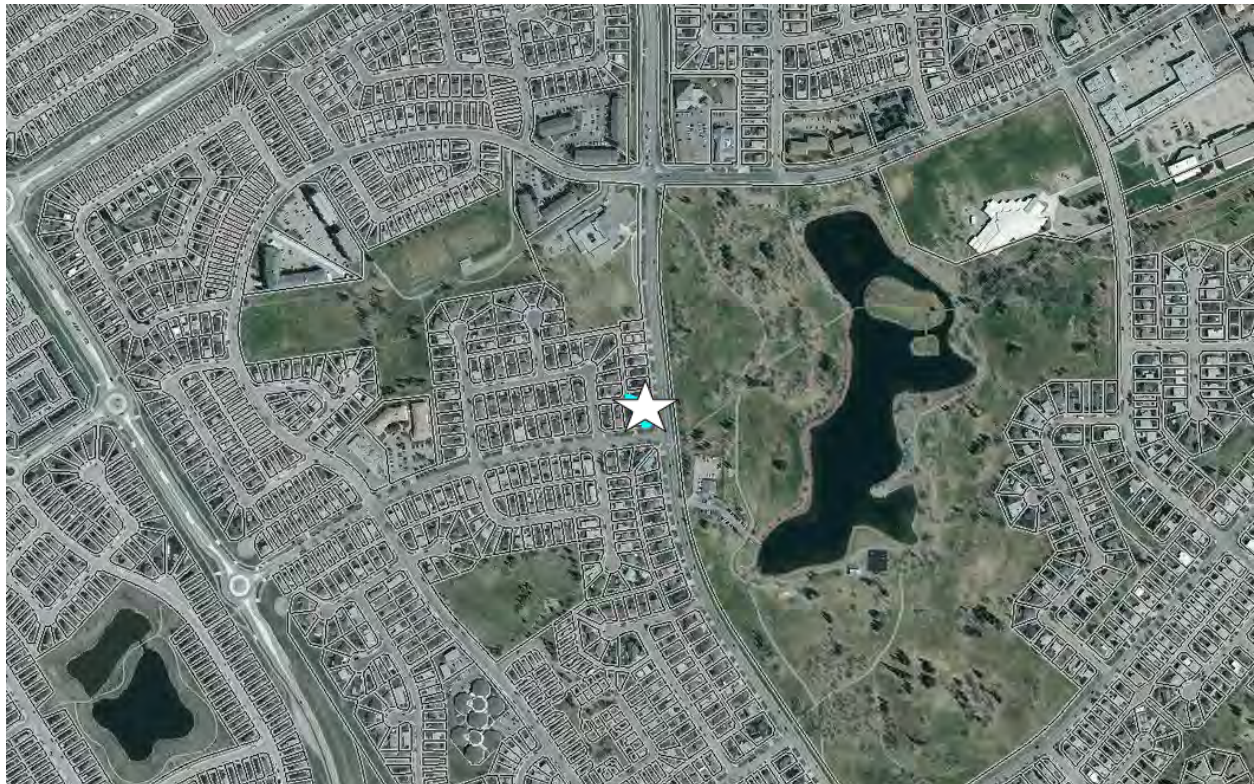
East

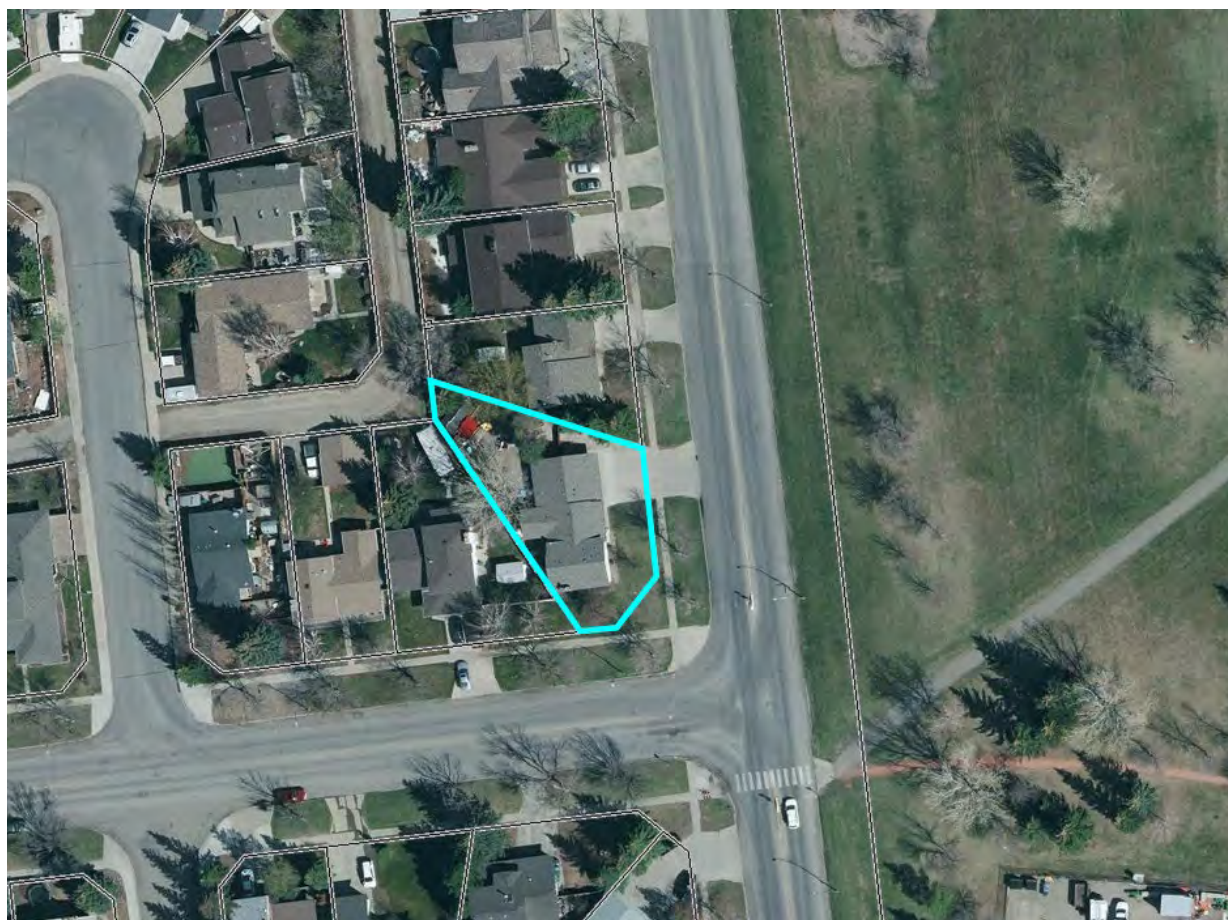
Park

West

Single Detached Dwelling

CONTEXT MAP





NOTIFICATION SUMMARY**Appendix B: Notification Letters, Map & Responses****Neighbourhood:** Varsity Village**Neighbourhood Associations(s):** N/A**LAND USE BYLAW SUMMARY****Use: Fence, Permitted**

	Requirement	Proposed	Waiver Requested
Front Fence Height	1.0 m	2.0 m	1.0 m
Fence Length	N/A	18.29 m	18.29 m

EVALUATION**Background**

- An application to construct a fence was received on October 4, 2023.
- Only an 18.29 m section of the fence required a permit, as the fence would be located in the front yard at a height of 2.0 m. The remaining sections of the fence complied with the requirements of Land Use Bylaw 6300, and did not require a permit.
- The application was circulated to the City's Transportation Engineer and Traffic Engineer and Transportation Planning department on October 20, 2023.
- Comments received back from the Transportation Engineer on November 8, 2023, stated: "We did a sight line analysis and see no issues."
- Neighbourhood Notification letters were sent to residents within a 60 m radius of the subject parcel on November 9, 2023 with the comment period ending November 23, 2023.
- The Neighbourhood Notification letters highlighted the section of fence subject to the waiver (highlighted in red). The areas highlighted in purple and green, indicated fencing that did not require permits, as per the fence requirements of Land Use Bylaw 6300.

- Following the Neighbourhood Notification letters two written letters were received opposing the fence, with reasons provided including: concerns over screaming children, opposition to the original application for the day care, felt the fence would be an eyesore, felt there were no other similar fences in the area, their view of the park would be impeded, the existing daycare has impacted their use, enjoyment and value of their property, the subject property is in close proximity to a park, concerns over intersection safety and congestion, concerns over a nearby bus stop, concerns over scooters being left in the area.
- Following the Neighbourhood Notification letters, two verbal comments were received, both by phone and at the front counter, indicating a disagreement with the interpretation of Land Use Bylaw 6300 prescribed fence requirements.

Context

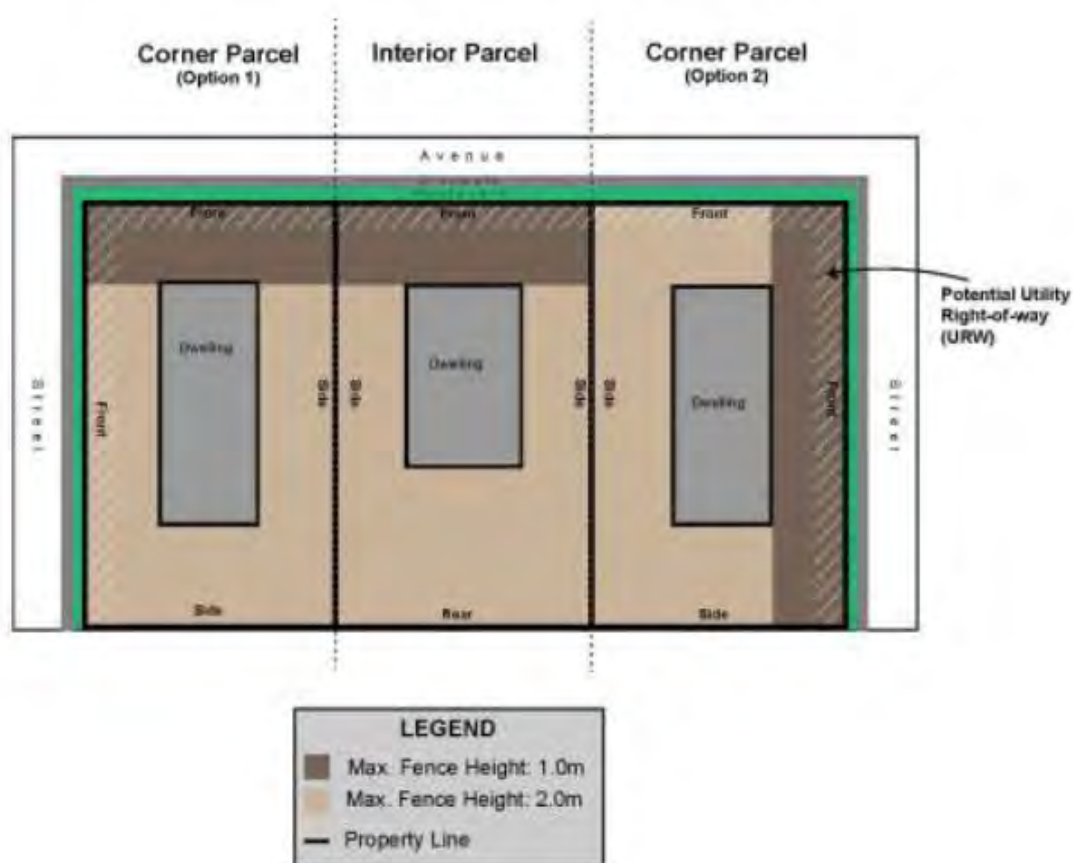
This Application was heard before the Appeal Board because:

- A neighbour appealed the decision.

LEGISLATION & POLICY

Land Use Bylaw 6300

- Section 82(3)(b) Fences, Privacy Walls and Gates
Unless otherwise provided in a Residential District, the maximum, height of fences, privacy walls and gates shall be:
Corner Parcels
 - (i) In one Front Yard (shaded area on the diagrams below) 1.0 m
 - (ii) In the remaining Yards (area outlined with dashed lines on the diagrams below) 2.0 m



APPLICATION OF FACTS

- The subject property was approved for a childcare minor with up to 50 children and 9 staff members, by the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, in June 2019.
- A waiver of 5 off-street parking spaces was granted for the childcare minor.
- The proposed fence will not interfere with current parking on the property.
- Only 18.29m section of fencing was subject permit requirements for a height waiver.

CONCLUSION

The application for a fence height waiver in the front yard was **approved** with the following conditions:

1. Compliance with the plans: The development shall be in accordance with the plans submitted October 24, 2023. Any changes to these plans requires the approval of the Development Officer and may, at the discretion of the Development Officer, require a new Development application.
2. A 1.0 m fence height waiver be granted, allowing the maximum fence height to be 2.0 m for the front section on the corner of McMaster Blvd and Temple Blvd.

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

250 McMaster Boulevard West

DEV14862

INTRODUCTION

Application No.:

DEV14862

Location:

250 McMaster Blvd W

Land Use District:

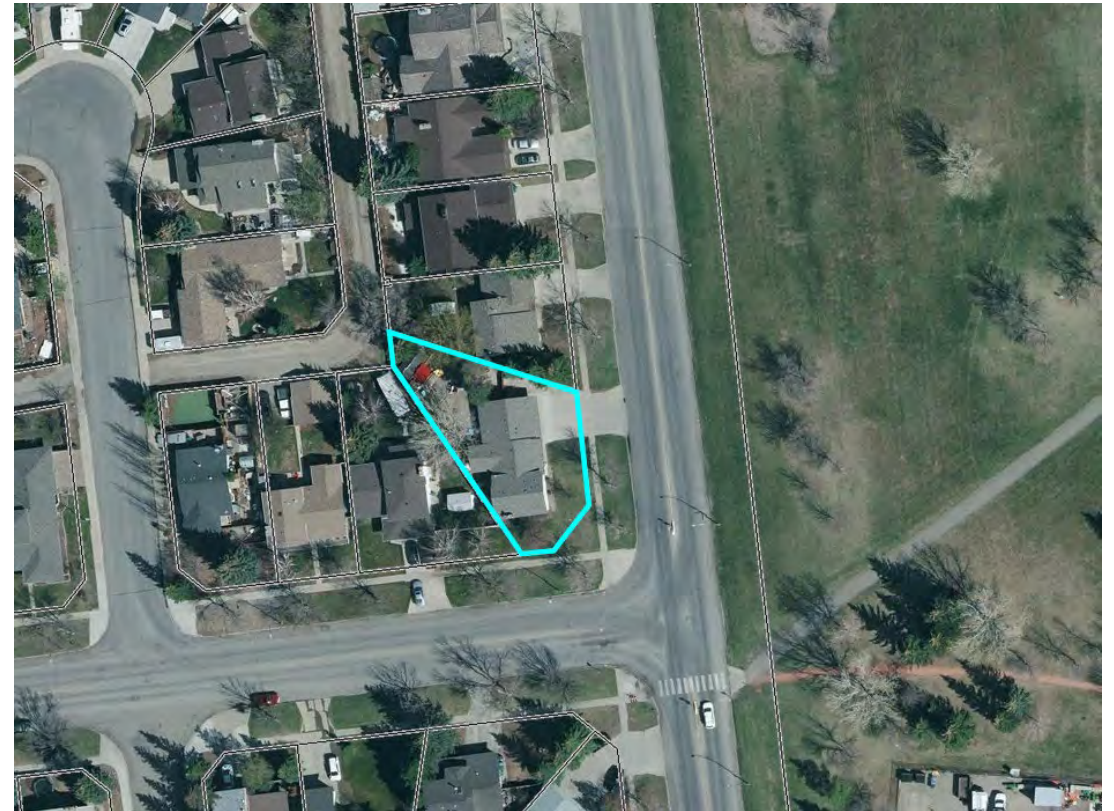
R-L Low Density Residential

Current Development:

Childcare, minor

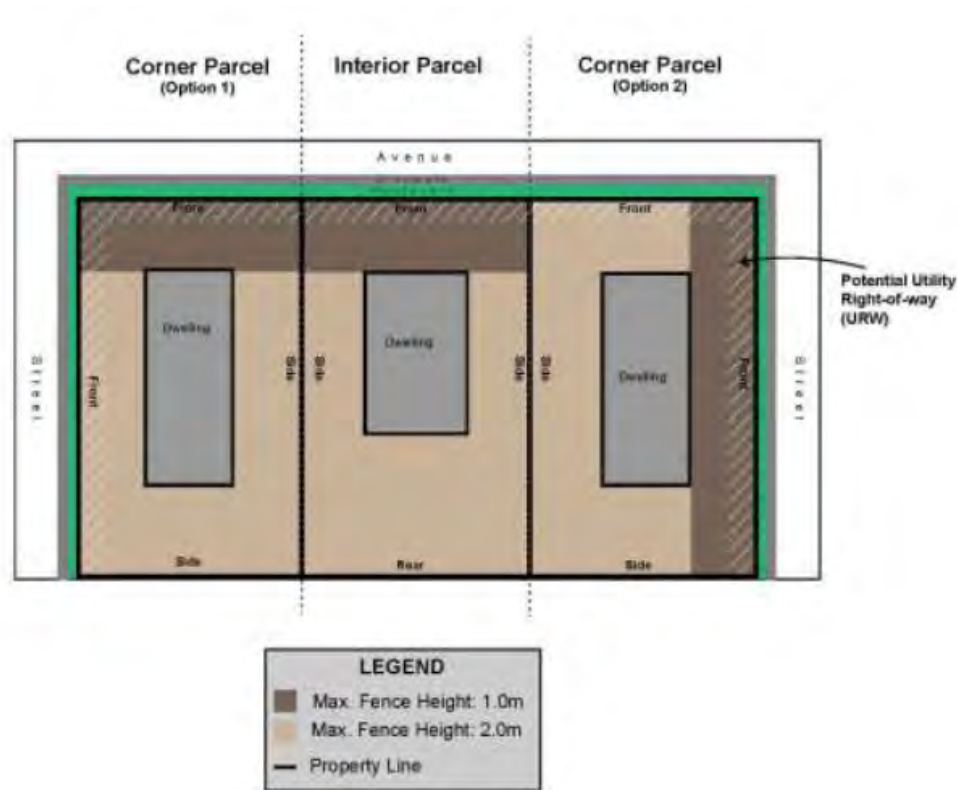
Proposed Development:

A request for a fence height waiver in the front yard for an 18.29 m section of fence.



LAND USE BYLAW 6300, SECTION 82(3)(b)

Fences, Privacy Walls and Gates



Unless otherwise provided in a Residential District, the maximum height of fences, privacy walls and gates shall be:

Corner Parcels

- (i) In one Front Yard (darker shaded area in the diagram) ... 1.0m
- (ii) In the remaining Yards (lighter shaded area on the diagram) ... 2.0 m

Proposed Fence



2.0 m fence, requested waiver



2.0 m fence, permitted, no permits required

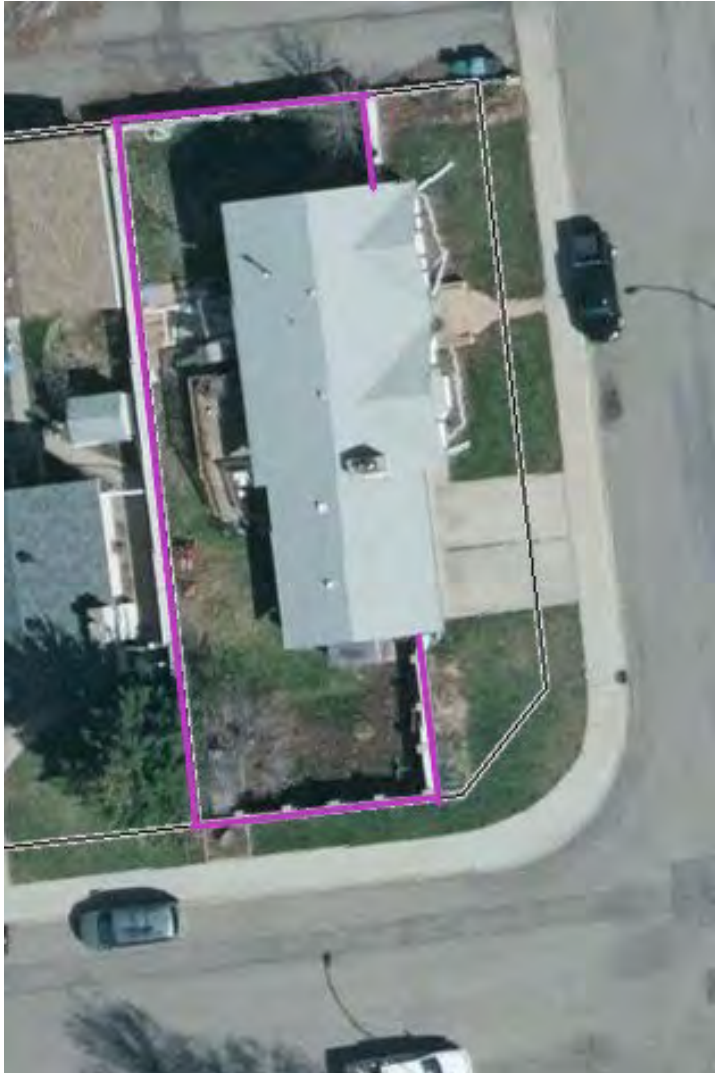


1.0 m fence, permitted, no permits required

2 ETON ROAD WEST



6 ETON ROAD WEST



1 DALHOUSIE ROAD WEST



EXAMPLES FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

CALGARY

808 124 Ave SW



MEDICINE HAT

795 Ross Glen Dr SE



RED DEER

5819 71 ST



EDMONTON
13615 87 ST SW



CIRCULATION

- The application was circulated to the City's Transportation Planning Department on October 20, 2023.
- Comments received from the Transportation Engineer on November 8, 2023, stated:

" We did a sight line analysis and see no issues."

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTIFICATION LETTERS

Neighbourhood Notification letters were sent November 9, 2023, with location of fence subject to waiver application being highlighted.

Comments Received included:

- Concerns over screaming children
- Opposition to the daycare, with the feeling that the daycare has impacted their use, enjoyment and value of their property
- Concerns the fence would be an eyesore
- Feelings there were no other similar fences in the area
- Concerns their view of the park would be impeded
- Feeling the fenced area was not needed due to the property's proximity to the park
- Concerns over intersection safety and traffic congestion
- Concerns over a nearby bus stop, and scooters being left in the area.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

- Majority of the proposed fence did not require a permit, as per the provisions in Land Use Bylaw 6300.
- The requested waiver was for a small section of the proposed fence - 18.29m in length.
- The Transportation Engineer had confirmed the proposed fence would not pose any issues to the intersection.
- There are similar fences within other locations in the City and other Municipalities.
- The Childcare, Minor approval is an existing approval since 2019.
- Had the property been used as a Dwelling, the evaluation process would have been the same.

CONCLUSION

The application for a fence height waiver in the front yard was **approved** with the following conditions:

1. Compliance with the plans: The development shall be in accordance with the plans submitted October 24, 2023. Any changes to these plans requires the approval of the Development Officer and may, at the discretion of the Development Officer, require a new Development application.
2. A 1.0 m fence height waiver be granted, allowing the maximum fence height to be 2.0 m for the front section on the corner of McMaster Blvd and Temple Blvd.

January 04, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

We are the parents of two children attending Where The Wild Things Grow West. We have been a client there for nearly three years now. When it came time for our oldest to go to daycare we got so lucky there was a spot open at this location. It is situated near both our home and our in-laws place making it a short drive or even walk for us or the grandparents to drop our kids off and pick them up. Where The Wild Things Grow has been such a blessing to our family. Both our kids have grown, developed and thrived in the care of the staff there. We cannot imagine our kids attending anywhere else, the staff have become like family to our kids and we are so grateful for the wonderful opportunities they have at daycare. My oldest is almost four and she regularly tells me about all the fun things she does at daycare, time spent outside being at the top of her list.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park. In the appeal the neighbours speak about the traffic in the neighbourhood and I would argue that if it is as bad as they are claiming then why should we expect small kids to regularly be crossing a busy intersection to enjoy time outside when they can just go into the backyard. I know as a parent I would be much more comfortable knowing my kid can safely enjoy time outside without the staff needing to walk them to the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be a part of the community.

6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my children to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.

7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my children more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

While I can understand why retired individuals may have complaints about the noise from the kids playing I am struggling to see how their desire for a perfectly quiet neighborhood has any relation to a fence being built to ensure my young kids safety and security. If a person wishes to live in a neighbourhood without children there are adult only communities located throughout Lethbridge. This location is less than half a block from an elementary school and directly across from the busiest park on the west side. Both these things have been creating traffic and noise for many years. I (Ariel) attended Children of St. Marthas as a child and grew up in a house just a few blocks from here so I know firsthand how busy that area is and has been long before Where The Wild Things Grow West opened its doors.

Furthermore much of the appeal is focused on noise complaints and parking which I fail to understand the correlation between these things and having a taller than average fence built. These individuals are so focused on controlling the neighbourhood that they are completely ignoring the facts. Street parking is free to anyone and has no relation to the fence. Kids make noise, these houses alleyways back onto an elementary school field and has since 1988 when it opened. This school has a population of over 200 students which spend time outside daily. Noise from a daycare shouldn't even be up for discussion.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Ariel Comstock & Tyson Service

403-394-8443
48 Blackfoot court west
Lethbridge, AB

January 7, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a grandparent of a child attending Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been delighted that she has been placed in such a high quality and caring daycare, with such professional and interactive staff. This has not been the case in previous placements. I feel thrilled that such a high quality facility is available to families on the westside, allowing them an accessible option without having to travel down the westside hill. I mention this as we all need to be cognizant of supporting children and young families trying to do the best they can in life, and society, certainly the city, should take a positive and active role in helping facilitate this.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not

allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my grandchild to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.

- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility, as has been erroneously suggested, but gives my grandchild more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

I do not feel this is an unreasonable request, or a large fence extension. The owners of this facility have gone out of their way to consider the needs of the neighbourhood, traffic flow and safety in a neighbourly manner. With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jo Gray

66 Canyoncrest Court W.

Lethbridge, AB

403-381-2427

January 7, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a grandparent of a child attending Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been delighted that she has been placed in such a high quality and caring daycare, with such professional and interactive staff. This has not been the case in previous placements. I feel thrilled that such a high quality facility is available to families on the westside, allowing them an accessible option without having to travel down the westside hill. I mention this as we all need to be cognizant of supporting children and young families trying to do the best they can in life, and society, certainly the city, should take a positive and active role in helping facilitate this.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
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allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my grandchild to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.

- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility, as has been erroneously suggested, but gives my grandchild more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

I do not feel this is an unreasonable request, or a large fence extension. The owners of this facility have gone out of their way to consider the needs of the neighbourhood, traffic flow and safety in a neighbourly manner. With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence.

Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Gray

66 Canyoncrest Court W.

Lethbridge, AB
403-381-2427

January 5, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of two children at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for three and a half years. We chose this daycare for our children because they prioritize the children in the program, keep them safe and happy and also because I work just down the road and would be driving past the centre regardless. They strive for excellence in childcare, and I appreciate how they value outdoor time for the children. As I'm sure we can all agree we feel better when we spend time outdoors in the fresh air.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

1. It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and wellbeing as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care. Even with this centre following strict ratio numbers I wouldn't ever want an older child to be able to climb over a 3 foot fence and be at the intersection of two busy collector roads, therefore reinstating the need for a 6 foot fence.
2. I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
3. A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
4. The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
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6. Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my children to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.

7. Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my children more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Janay Hust
345 Rivergrove Chase W. Lethbridge, AB

January 8, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of children (ages 5 and 3) at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for two and a half years. We feel so fortunate our children can attend this program that offers amazing programming, both inside and outside. One thing I really appreciate there is that our kids are outside each day for a couple of hours. The staff have worked hard to create safe and inclusive spaces outside for the children to play.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer? This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
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- 6) Outdoor play reduces stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my children to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my children more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner that is still respectful to the neighbourhoods.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Kevan Lomness

403-915-0012

11 Riverwood Manor, Lethbridge, AB, T1K 7X4

January 4, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for the past five months. This daycare has allowed me to return to work following my maternity leave and feel confident that my son is in the care of a trustworthy and nurturing staff in a safe facility. While this alone is incredibly important to myself and my family, having this daycare centre located close to home and in a safe neighbourhood has brought us so much peace of mind.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this are as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
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- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.
- 8) The current appeal of this extension of the fencing height is based on the premise that it will lead to an increase in childcare numbers and more noise. The intention of this change in fencing height is to increase safety for the children who already attend this wonderful facility and will aid in noise reduction. The appeal also raises concerns over diminished view of the park from Temple Blvd, however based on the already approved area for fencing and the foliage in the area, the only way to clearly view the park at this time is from the front sidewalk, which will not be impacted by granting this request. Based on all of these points, the details outlined in the appeal are not relevant to the expansion that is actually in question and makes it clear that the appellant simply intends to fight the daycare on any and all improvements they make.

For many parents returning to the workforce after a maternity leave, the decision of who to leave your child with is one that leads to endless hours of stress. Compounding this with the long waitlist for daycare facilities and lack of

options for parents in our city as it is, it is disappointing to see a high-quality facility that provides care and support to so many families, like Where The Wild Things Grow West, having to jump through hurdles to continue improving upon their facility for our children. West Lethbridge is so fortunate to have this facility for residents and I truly believe that we should be supporting their efforts to continually improve to serve the children of our community.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Georgi MacInnis

403-485-1494

455 Blackfoot Manor W.

Lethbridge, AB T1K 7W4

January 4th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West (WTWTG). I have been a client there for more than 2 years. My daughter went to this daycare, and now she is in grade 1. My son current goes to this daycare as well. We move to Lethbridge 2 years ago and checked quite a few daycares. Of all the daycares that we checked, WTWTG didn't have the best facility, but they had the best teachers. The teachers care about the children. They smile to the kids and interact with them. Every time after dropping off my child at the daycare, I feel good about it. Therefore, I can focus on my work.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
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- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play in crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Chao Zheng
5873946789
365 Rivergrove Chase W, Lethbridge Alberta

To: Leda Tittsworth
Development Officer 1
City of Lethbridge

November 22, 2023

Re: Waiver request for a fence at 250 McMaster Blvd. W

I am responding to the Notice to Neighbours related to the request for a waiver for a fence at 250 McMaster Blvd. W.

I am strongly against the proposed waiver for the following reasons:

1. 250 McMaster Blvd is a pie-shaped, corner lot which directly adjoins my property at 246 McMaster Blvd. If you look at the site drawing provided in the Notice to Neighbours you will see that the fence on the north side yard of 250 McMaster is very close to my back deck. Since the approval of the daycare in 2019 I have been subjected to the sounds of screaming children several times throughout the day. Those opposing the original application were criticized for not enjoying the joyful sounds of children playing. Let me assure you, it is not joyful sounds that I am hearing. The noise has been so loud that I have had to retreat from my deck to inside my home. Fencing in additional outdoor space can only increase the noise. I, along with the majority of the neighbourhood, are retired seniors with no children in our home. I expected a peaceful retirement and being able to enjoy my property. Unfortunately, this has not been the case since the daycare has moved in and with the addition of enclosed yard space on the property, it will only get worse.
2. The proposed fencing is not consistent with the ambience of the neighbourhood and, if approved, would be an eyesore. There are no other front yard fences on that portion of McMaster and no fences on Temple Blvd. that obstruct the view of Nicholas Sheran Park.
3. The property was already granted a parking waiver for more than ½ of the required parking which meant parking for their staff and clients was pushed out onto McMaster Blvd. causing an unsightly obstruction of the view of Nicholas Sheran Park. We were assured by the daycare operators that their staff would, for the most part, be walking or carpooling or parking in the Nicholas Sheran Parking lot. We know that has not happened. My late husband and I made the decision to purchase our home based on the view of beautiful Nicholas Sheran Park. That view has now been impeded by daycare parking and the view for others will be impeded by the proposed fencing. ‘
4. The daycare has significantly impacted the use, enjoyment and value of my property on McMaster Blvd., in particular, and has similarly impacted other properties in the neighbourhood. More than 150 people expressed opposition to the initial application to have the daycare business in this low-density residential zoned area. The valid objections were disregarded by the Commission. Unfortunately, the objections that were pointed out to the Commission have come to fruition and the neighbourhood has been significantly negatively impacted. I urge you to not further disadvantage the neighbourhood around this daycare.

At what point is it decided that the granting of waivers has reached a limit? It seems to be a case of the proverbial “give them an inch . . . “ I urge you to stop this.

There seems to be great sympathy that influences decisions related to the daycare property simply because it is a daycare which is a desirable and needed service. I remind you that there are four other daycares within 10-minute walking distance of 250 McMaster. This is a business in a low-density residential zoned neighbourhood and is, without question, a blight on the neighbourhood. Approving this intrusive fence adds further insult to injury and would significantly negatively impact us even more in the enjoyment of our property. I am strongly opposed to granting a waiver for the fence and I urge you to not approve the waiver for the proposed fence.

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Greatorex

c.c. Mayor Blaine Hyggen
Councillor Mark Campbell
Councillor John Middleton-Hope
Councillor Jeff Carlson
Councillor Belinda Crowson
Councillor Rajko Dodic
Councillor Nick Paladino
Councillor Ryan Parker
Councillor Jenn Schmidt-Rempel

January 4th, 2024

To whom receives,

I am writing as a concerned parent in response to the formal appeal initiated by residents near Where the Wild Things Grow Early Learning Centre at 250 McMaster Blvd West Lethbridge.

After reading through the neighbour's letter, I feel an overwhelming sadness for their lived experiences. I can't imagine how frustrating it must be to work hard serving their communities, choose to retire in our beautiful city, only to feel unable to relax. As the child of recent retirees, all I wish for my parents is to experience happiness and rest. I would like to add that I have always, and continue, to reside adjacent to active and retired LPS, RCMP, and Peace Officers, and their presence helps my family feel safe at home.

Equally, as the parent of two school-aged children, the oldest being Where the Wild Things Grow South alumnus, and the youngest currently attending the West location, I rely on safe and affordable care for my child outside of my home while my husband and I work. Ideally, I would stay at home with my children and form a community of young families where we could provide enriching experiences for growing bodies and developing minds. Unfortunately, the difficult reality is that even with a modest home, 10 year-old paid-off vehicles, and no credit card debt (which does *not* represent the average families in Alberta as 25% struggling to provide meals for their children according to a 2023 CBC News report), both incomes are required to provide our family with housing, healthy meals, reliable transportation, and expenses covered by workplace benefits.

With the introduction of the Alberta Affordability Grant for licensed child care centres in Alberta, it has become increasingly difficult for families to find licensed child care spaces, and several child care centres in Lethbridge have waitlists exceeding 100+ children, which translates to roughly two years of waiting. For example, according to a 2023 [Canadian Survey on the Provision of Child Care Services, 2022 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#), approximately one million children are enrolled in child care in Canada, and families are still reporting struggles accessing quality child care.

[This July 2020 article](#) hosted by the University of Alberta and written by the Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention in 2020 focuses on the urgency for more quality child care centres in Alberta and cites the importance these centres are in impacting future chronic illnesses by providing environments filled with good nutrition, adequate exercise and supporting and reliable caregivers.

In addition, my youngest child was born with profound disability, and the requested outdoor fencing will provide her with more safe spaces for accommodations, giving her more equitable access in a world that is not designed for her existence.

My hope for this neighbourhood community is that a mutual solution can be reached whereby the centre can provide these desperately needed spaces for these beautiful children while the residential owners can feel undisturbed and receive the rest they have worked so hard all their lives to receive. Perhaps a decorative element on the fencing can honour the aesthetic of the neighbourhood while still providing visual privacy for the children? I do not have all the answers, but I am confident that these two sides can amicably discuss solutions together that benefit both sides.

I will be unable to attend the January 11th meeting at City Hall, as I do not have access to child care that can accommodate my child's disabilities, but I am available if there are any questions.

Thank you kindly for your time and for hearing the voices of childcare parents,

Carmen Struyk

403-795-2806

253 Crocus Terrace West Lethbridge, AB T1J 5L7

SDAB Appeal Hearing

Where The Wild Things Grow Early Learning Centre Ltd. West

INTRODUCTION

OUTDOOR PLAY BENEFITS

REQUESTING AND IMPORTANCE
OF SAFETY

BENEFITS OF EXTENDING PLAY
AREAS AND ADDRESSING
CONCERNS

SUMMARY



agenda

Introduction

Where The Wild Things Grow Early Centre Ltd. is an Early Learning Program with both centres having 50 children and 9 staff. We open our South location in 2014 and our West location in 2020. We are a family owned and operated business with four owners, Keira Moore, Eva Irwin, Caitlin Stock, and Julianne Orosz. We purposely chose programs in residential neighborhoods as we feel children are and deserve to be treated as valued members of the community. It is important to us to integrate children in a neighborhood with parks and a lot of green spaces. We have strived to be a pillar within our community and to represent and support our community's youngest of citizens. We deeply believe that the formative years are the most important years in development and the best way to support this is through active and outdoor play.





Outdoor Play Benefits

Benefits of Outdoor Play

The Benefits of Outdoor Play

Children **move more,**

sit less,

and **play longer.**

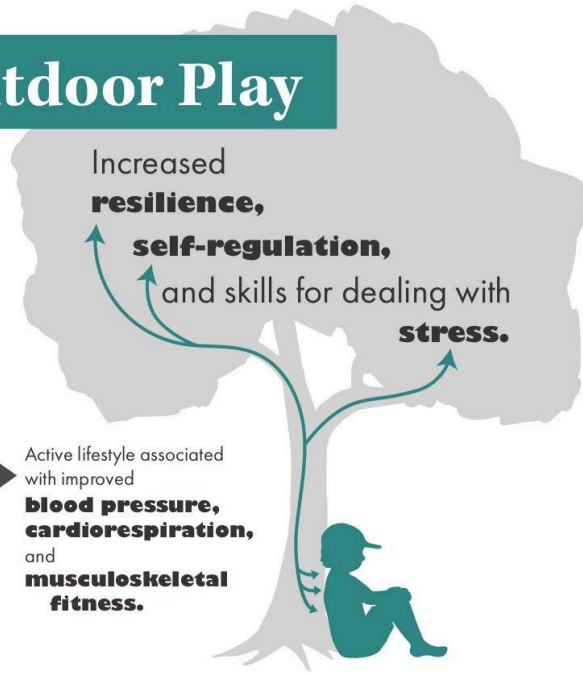


Kids learn to balance **risky play** and their own **safety.**



Active lifestyle associated with improved **blood pressure, cardiorespiration, and musculoskeletal fitness.**

Increased **resilience, self-regulation,** and skills for dealing with **stress.**



Canadian experts from 14 organizations reviewed the best available evidence and released a Position Statement that **access to active play in nature and outdoors—with its risks—is essential for healthy child development.** They recommend **increasing children's opportunities for self-directed outdoor play at home, at school, in the community and in nature.** *Learn more at <http://bit.ly/position-on-play>*



The outdoors offers limitless potential to young children. It becomes a place where they can go to relax their mind, to be inspired and to deep dive into the world of imagination. It's a place where they can design, create and explore. The possibilities are endless.

Angela Hanscom

www.cosydirect.com



- We want to increase our outdoor spaces for the children so we can create appropriate spaces for them to challenge themselves. Indoors does not offer the same things as outdoors, nor is it always appropriate or safe to conduct certain activities inside (climbing, jumping, running).
- We want to create and promote healthy lifelong habits and a love of the outdoors and being active. Outdoor play has significantly declined in Western cultures over the past years and is becoming more sedentary [Paving the Way for Outdoor Play: Examining Socio-Environmental Barriers to Community-Based Outdoor Play - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)
- We want to reduce the stress on children and staff with having set outdoor times for each group since they have to share two yards.
- Outdoor play increases children's physical abilities, autonomy, creativity, cooperation with others, problem solving skills, and risk management since it offers more opportunities to practice these skills. [Outdoor play and children: Benefits and why it matters \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](#)

Current Spaces

- o We work extremely hard to make beautiful spaces for the children to play. We invest back into our property. When picking a fence, we will be diligent in ensuring it is aesthetically appealing and in line with the neighborhood standards.



6FT EXTENSION IN AREA OUTLINED IN PINK

We are building a 3ft fence in our front yard and a 6ft fence in our side yard following the current bylaws, we asking for an extension of the 6ft fence (outlined in pink).



Reasons for Request

- It would give additional security and safety to the staff and children of the Program when playing outdoors
- Limit frequency of children crossing the street to use the park
- The extension give more flexibility in how we can maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children in the backyard can be split up to reduce noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 6ft fences are harder to throw toys over than 3ft fences
- Eliminate chances of older children attempting to climb over the fence
- Provide more privacy for the children and neighbourhood

Childcare Licensing Requirements

There are no requirements from Childcare Licensing about the height a fence must be for children to play outdoors. We are requesting a 6ft fence for our own piece of mind. Rather it is granted does not change the number of children using this yard.

The addition of a fence does not increase our capacity to accept more children nor are we looking to increase our capacity as this would require us to change our zoning altogether which we are not looking to do.

The only requirement is there must be floor space of 2 square meters per infant (under 19 months) and 4.5 square meters of space per any child over 19 months. The area's net space will determine the number of children permitted in the yard.

Traffic and Safety

- We submitted our application to the city prior to ensure our fence met city traffic regulations and didn't impede on sight lines. This intersection is a 3 way stop which ensures all vehicles are at the corner prior to preceding.
- Sight lines are not affected due to our fence being brought in significantly from the sidewalk and boulevard.

Neighbor Concerns

Anytime we have received a complaint or request from the neighbor, we do our best to deal with the issue outlined in a timely manner. Parents can attest to emails being sent reminding rules on parking and receiving a reminder every month in our monthly newsletter. The only requests we have had come from 3 Temple Blvd W.

We go out of our way to shovel our neighbors walks when they have not been shoveled yet and have mowed our neighbor's lawn at 246 McMaster countless times as she is unable both front and back as requested. We also paid for the full fence that was needed as the fence adjoining 246 McMaster was in poor repair and unsafe.

Addressing Concerns Continued

- The earliest we typically use our yard space is 9:30 a.m. (after morning snack) until 11:00 a.m.(Lunch), we don't typically go out from 11:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and then use the yard from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Depending on the weather and the day.
- By adding additional play spaces there is a high likelihood we will be outside reduced hours in the day as we have 4 groups of children, and we will not have to stagger our time to each get our allotted time.
- Increasing our play yards does not make us more likely to apply for a childcare major. Outdoor play space has absolutely nothing to do with this. We will be fencing these areas either way, it is to increase the safety of our children while using this space and to give the neighbors privacy.
- The idea that west care is "over saturated" is an assumptive opinion. I have 165 families on my waiting list eagerly looking for care. We do not have the capacity to open another facility and manage it at the level that we see fit, but the West is certainly not saturated with care. I think the city can attest the waiting lists all around the city.

In terms to the complaints on traffic, the current census shows that the population has increased throughout our city. This includes young families coming to the west side. You can see in our parent letters; a large portion are a short walk from our centre.

I believe our traffic department is more than capable of accessing our roads and what needs to be done as neighborhoods expand.

We can see in the last 4 years, the intersection of Temple and McMaster was assessed and turned into a 3 way stop. Metis was opened and has diverted traffic.



WAIVERS GRANTED

Being Apart of the Solution

We have joined the Nicholas Sheran Community School, school travel planning committee. They are embarking on a joint committee with the City of Lethbridge, Alberta Health Services, the Alberta Motor Association, and parents and staff. We hope by joining this committee we can contribute to providing solutions to creating safer neighborhoods and roadways throughout the neighborhoods equipped for walking, scootering, and biking.

summary

At Where The Wild Things Grow Early Learning Centre Ltd. West, we believe safety is of the utmost importance. We feel by extending our 6ft fence and providing a higher fence we will be able to in turn give the neighbors more privacy, provide safety by keeping children onsite more often, and provide safety by ensuring older children are not able to climb a 3 ft fence.



thank you

Where The Wild Things Grow Early Learning Centre Ltd.

wherethewildthingsgrowwest@outlook.com

www.wherethewildthingsgrow.ca

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for 1 and a half years. We love sending our son to Where the Wild Thing Grow, it close to our house which makes for a nice walk to pick him up. We love the staff as they are friendly, compassionate and caring.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play in crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.
- 8) Playing outside has so many benefits for the development of children, Advances motor skills, improves muscle strength, and creates appreciation for the environment.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Brittany Agnew
403-393-1316
663 Redcrow blvd west

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for one year and three months. Our family lives within walking distance of the daycare which we appreciate very much. The staff is friendly and caring, and our son has exponentially improved his social skills since attending.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.
- 8) As a busy working family, we do not always have the time or energy to get the recommended outdoor time and activity necessary so I am grateful the children have an outdoor space to have screen free play where they use their imaginations and energy during the day.
- 9) I completed the elementary school survey on the expanding west side and became aware of the growing young population in the area. I believe this also applies to young families in need of childcare in the area, and I would recommend Where The Wild Things Grow as a place children are save to thrive whenever possible.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Tory Bennett
(403) 360-9491
203 Ryerson Road West

Emily Demyen
424 Silkstone Crescent W
Lethbridge, AB T1J 2G4
emilydemyen@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

Like many other community members, my spouse and I moved to Lethbridge to pursue post-secondary education. And, like many others, we never left. We enjoyed the access to activities and outdoor spaces; we truly loved the sense of community.

Over a decade later, we have decided to raise our family here. We both work in the education sector, and are passionate about the work we do, and the people we support. With that, we had an obvious need to secure a childcare spot.

After many tours and much discussion, we chose to enroll our son at Where the Wild Things Grow West. It has been one of the best experiences for our child. He is slow to warm but has built his own sense of self at daycare. He has meaningful interactions with wonderful peers and educators, which has been beautiful to watch. To say we are pleased is an understatement.

I'm not writing to argue about the view or parking, but rather to share my sentiment as a parent.

I understand that children are noisy, and that it can impede a relaxing afternoon outside. But please remember these are **children**. They are loud because they are having fun, or because they are learning how to make sense of their world, their bodies, and their relationships. The workers are doing their very best to be respectful, while also teaching small children about respect.

Allowing them to have greater access to safe outdoor play space does not mean that more childcare spots are available. It simply means the children who already attend the centre can be distributed in better ratios throughout the yard.

To those who are bothered, did you forget what it's like to be a parent?

It hurts to know that members in our community do not value my child's right to take up space; to make noise; to feel safe.

The daycare shortage proves that the market is not saturated. Rather, the opposite. There are hundreds of families in Lethbridge who are longing for access to childcare. Neighborhoods are meant to be full of boisterous laughter with toys clanging and banging. It may not be peaceful, but it is full. Full of life, full of new faces, full of hope for the future.

Please consider the sense of community you are creating. It is truly shaping the future of Lethbridge.

Kind regards,

Emily Demyen

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of child at Where the Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for 3+ years now as my second youngest and youngest have been attending there. I am an instructor at Lethbridge College, and I live in the Indian Battle area. This day care has been very good to me and has been flexible and accommodating even though I work on the south side and have other children to facilitate getting to and from school. I should also mention that I am largely a single mother as my partner is away most of the time. The program is at an ideal location for me and has been excellent in supporting my children and myself.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play in crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child (4 years old) more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.
- 8) Full disclosure, my child is a climber, and the additional height makes me feel a bit more secure. Additionally, a sad fact of our area in Lethbridge, is that it has had a number of issues with individuals who are unsafe around children and so I appreciate the privacy afforded by the 6 foot fence.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Emory Haché- BHRLR
403-795-8767
100 Cayuga Cres W
Lethbridge AB T1K 5H5

January 5, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where the Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for almost two years. We live in Copperwood so I was very excited to get into this daycare as it meant not having to drive downtown twice daily. I've chosen my drop-off and pick-up times as best I can to avoid people going to work in the mornings and coming back from work in the afternoons as it is quite a busy road to back onto. When I am later than expected, I may have to wait 5 minutes for someone to leave the parking pad so I can pull in but the traffic that I try to avoid on that road has nothing to do with the daycare.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would provide staff and children of the program with **additional safety and security** when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all. The 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence. This increases safety for the children as well as the general public.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be a part of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Arguing against this variance on the basis that it **could** lead to a change in occupancy (minor vs. major) is purely hypothetical as this change has not been requested. Extending the fence does not in any way mean an automatic increase in children attending the facility.

- 8) McMaster and temple have both been designed and constructed to accommodate larger volumes of neighbourhood traffic - including on-street parking. Attempting to argue that a "view of the park" is somehow impeded by on-street parking and that this somehow trumps the safety and security of my child, and others, is appalling.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where the Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Hoover

Lindsey Hoover

Ph: 587.991.5785

691 Keystone Chase West

Lethbridge, Alberta

T1J 5G2

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for 2.5 years and we couldn't be happier with how the program is run and the transparency that is provided to parents in regards to any issues that may arise.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Justin Jones

403-872-4740

1370 Pacific Circle W

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where the Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for 4 years. I am also neighbour of Where the Wild Things Grow on Eton Rd. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to maximize outdoor play for children, which was one of the reasons I chose Where the Wild Things Grow for my daughter. There is no questions that time outside is beneficial for learning, self regulation, growth, and play.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

1. It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
2. I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
3. A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
4. The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
5. It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
6. Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play in crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
7. Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

8. As a neighbour, who frequents the crosswalk to Nicholas Sheran park, it would seem imperative for safety to provide a secure and high fence. The traffic at the corner of Temple and Macmaster is constantly increasing.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Victoria Karmali

63 Eton Rd W
Lethbridge, AB
587-220-4870

January 9,2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child and past children at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for almost 5 years. Keira and her staff have such a wonderful childcare facility for our kids to grow and develop. My kids have learnt so many life, social and development skills because of the great work the staff do with the kids daily. The effort and energy they put into moulding the next generation is truly remarkable and often goes unrecognized. I would recommend Where The Wild Things Grow West to any parent who is looking for a child care facility based on the reasons noted above.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.
- 8) Allowing this addition simply makes me feel more comfortable knowing my child is safe where they are 40 hours/week.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kroeker

587 370 3468

371 Crocus Terrace West

Jan. 9, 24

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for two years. We live close to the daycare and I work at Nicholas Sheran School. I consider myself a community member and have great interest in ensuring the neighbourhood is safe and enjoyed by all. Where The Wild Things Grow is an amazing facility what we are so lucky to be a part of. The services they provide are exceptional. As an elementary school teacher I am so thankful that my child gets to attend a facility that is a) close to the school, b) invested in the community, and c) provides the highest level of care to all their clients and families.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Megan Lewis

97 Blackfoot Circle

403 596 5406

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for two and a half years. Our daughter loves attending Where the Wild Things Grow West. She delights in seeing her friends there and spending time with the adults who provide thoughtful, intentional, and important care for her while I and her father are working. Outdoor play is important for her development, and increasing the amount of safe outdoor spaces at Where the Wild Things Grow gives her more opportunities to explore the outdoor world. On days when it may be too cold or hot to walk over to the park, more space on the property for kids to play in allows them to still spend time outside.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and space to grow and develop their skills.
- 8) In a world where many children are increasingly exposed to screen time on cell phones, television, or computers it is crucial to provide ample amounts of outdoor play areas in children's early years. This extra space on the property will provide opportunities for children to test their own imagination and creativity in the outdoors.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Amara Marriott & Michael Marriott

(403)330-5616

23 Edinburgh Way W, Lethbridge, AB

From: [Anna Kert-Kravitz](#)
To: [David Sarsfield](#)
Subject: [External] Letter of support for wild things daycare
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 11:49:48 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

January 9, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of 2 children at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for 2.5-3 years. They take very good care of my kiddos, I feel like they love them and do their best to make sure their daycare feels like a safe, caring space for my kids to be. It is such a paramount thing to feel secure leaving my precious children with someone else so I can work. This daycare is so important to our family.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can

have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.

- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child [or children] to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child [or children] more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Anna McKinnon
403 393 3511

360 heritage crescent west
Lethbridge AB
T1K 6V9

Sent from my iPhone

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there since August 2023. We purposely transferred to this program to get away from a large scale, less personalized childcare program. Attending a program that is integrated within the community was important to us so that our daughter can begin forming friendships a bonds with other children who will attend the local Nicholas Sheran Elementary school, where her older sister also already attends.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 3) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 4) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 5) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play in crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years. In recent years we have seen the mental health of adults decrease considerably. This increases the importance on daycares to continue providing experiences and environments that help promote good mental health. Many studies have also shown the positive impacts of outdoor play on, not only children's problem-solving abilities, but also its positive effects on their mental health.
- 6) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility because the number of children attending the program is calculated by useable square footage inside the building. It merely gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Trenton and Jennifer Mikilak
403-360-5916
122 Riverine Lane West, T1K 5V6

[January 9, 2024]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for just over 1 year. I live in the Riverstone community. Where The Wild Things Grow has been integral to our family, since our daughter started attending there. It is very difficult to get childcare in the city of Lethbridge. Many of our friend are waiting 1-2 years to try and get their child into childcare. We are fortunate to have a spot at such an amazing facility that puts the care and future of our child as their top priority.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play in crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.
- 8) I believe we need to give flexibility to facilities such as childcare centres to make their facilities as optimal as possible for the experience of the kids and staff. There is a severe childcare shortage in Lethbridge from talking to many of my friends who also have kids. Neighbours and citizens need to understand that if we don't make accommodations for childcare centers, it is going to have a severe impact on our city and community. I understand there could be minor inconveniences to some with a 6-foot fence. However, these inconveniences are extremely minor compared to doing everything we can to support childcare centers who service our community. Where The Wild Things Grow, is looking to build the fence to give our kids and community the best possible facility there is.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew Okrainec
306-621-9293
266 Riverstone Blvd W, Lethbridge AB, T1K 5P6

January 9, 2024.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there since August 20, 2021. We chose this daycare for many reasons. We live in Copperwood and the daycare is in very close distance. The location offers our family convenience as well exciting opportunities and experiences for my son. The staff are always finding new and exciting ways to teach and play with the children. Another reason we chose this daycare is for time they spend outside. They take the children outside every (unless there is a health risk because of cold, heat, smoke from wildfires etc.). As a parent I have seen the impact that the outdoors has on my son's physical and mental health. The program at Where the Wild Things Grow West is incredible and truly a big asset to our community.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Marrisa Penner

403-795-5553

1288 Keystone Road West

Lethbridge, AB T1J 5E6

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

We are parents of a child at Where The Wild Things Grow West. We have been a client there for almost 3 years. Where The Wild Things Grow was our top choice for a daycare when deciding to enroll our child into a daycare program as friends who've children had attended the south side facility had nothing but great things to say about the facility, staff and the program. We were thrilled to learn that a west location was opening prior to the end of Lesley's maternity leave. I (Lesley) am born, raised, and currently reside in West Lethbridge. We love that the daycare is located within a 5 minute drive from our home and located next to our favourite west side park to visit with our daughter and walk our family dog! Our daughter has created very deep, trusting, and nurturing relationships with all the staff she engages with and enjoys daycare so much, including the time she spends outdoors.

I am in support of the request for Where The Wild Things Grow West to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by all the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park. In addition, the increased yard space reduced the number of times that may be needed to cross busy streets to access the park when the daycare chooses to utilize this space.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic and neighbouring yards since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.
- 6) There is an abundance of reasons why outdoor play is of huge benefit to children. In a world full of more and more screens, we applaud Where the Wild Things Grow West for encouraging outdoor play as a part of their programming. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Having a six foot fence allows for this type of play and programming in a safe and effective manner. Here are some of the benefits of outdoor play for children:
 - a. Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play.
 - b. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and we want our child to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.
 - c. Outdoor environments stimulate children's curiosity and encourage exploration, fostering cognitive development and a love for learning. Group outdoor activities promote teamwork, cooperation, and communication skills. Children learn to work together to achieve common goals.

- d. Interacting with peers in unstructured outdoor play helps children develop conflict resolution skills and learn to negotiate with others.
 - e. Outdoor play exposes children to a variety of sensory experiences, such as different textures, sounds, smells, and temperatures, which contribute to sensory development.
 - f. Outdoor play allows children to engage in safe risk-taking, such as balancing on uneven surfaces, fostering resilience and self-confidence.
 - g. Outdoor environments offer more opportunities for open-ended, imaginative play. These natural settings stimulate creativity and allow children to invent their own games and scenarios.
 - h. Spending time outdoors helps children develop a sense of responsibility and appreciation for the environment, promoting a lifelong connection to nature.
 - i. Exposure to natural light during outdoor play can help regulate circadian rhythms, leading to improved sleep patterns.
- 7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

The majority of the appeal letters appear to be related to noise complaints and parking issues. I feel the above has illustrated that in fact building a 6 foot fence will overall reduce noise given that there will be less need to stagger the children's time outdoors. The 6 foot fence does not mean more children will be attending the centre and therefore parking will not be increasing. There also seems to be total disregard for the children's overall safety in the letters brought forward to the appeal board. I find the lack of acknowledgment for the safety of the children attending Where the Wild Things Grow West, as one individual mentioned several times is a retired police officer, extremely disheartening. These individuals chose to live in a neighborhood that is one block away from an elementary school and near one of the busiest parks in West Lethbridge where noise and traffic have always existed.

With all of this in mind, we strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to our family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lesley & Nathan Wihnan

403-892-8526 (Lesley)
403-915-4503 (Nathan)
1568 Coalbanks Boulevard West
Lethbridge, AB T1J 5B6

January 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child who attended Where The Wild Things Grow West for 2.5 years. He has graduated from there and is in Grade 1 this year. We live around the corner on Eton Road, a less than 5 minute walk to the center. Although, originally, I had my skepticism on the opening of a daycare at this location, it has ended up being the best thing ever for our family. We LOVE the staff there, and my son insists on continuing to visit them even though he no longer attends. The owner and staff are all compassionate, dedicated women whom I trust with the single and most important things in my life with. Their kindness extends past their clients as they are very respectful to neighbors and considerate of others view points. I received many emails reminding parents of being courteous to neighbors (ex: parking) and a reminder that a happy community around the daycare is important.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

- 1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.
- 2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.
- 3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.
- 4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.
- 5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for

each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.

6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my and all children to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.

7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives children more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kaley Hill

(403)862-9846

105 Eton Road West

Lethbridge T1K4T9



Two photos, different angles. Taken from our property. Employee parking on the road, driveway has no vehicles.

Photos taken at 11:20am, Friday, November 17, 2023



Photo of staff parking on McMaster, near the intersection. Photo taken Wednesday, November 17, 2023 at 8:39am.



Different angle, from 2nd floor of my home. Photo taken Wednesday, November 17, 2023 at 8:39am.

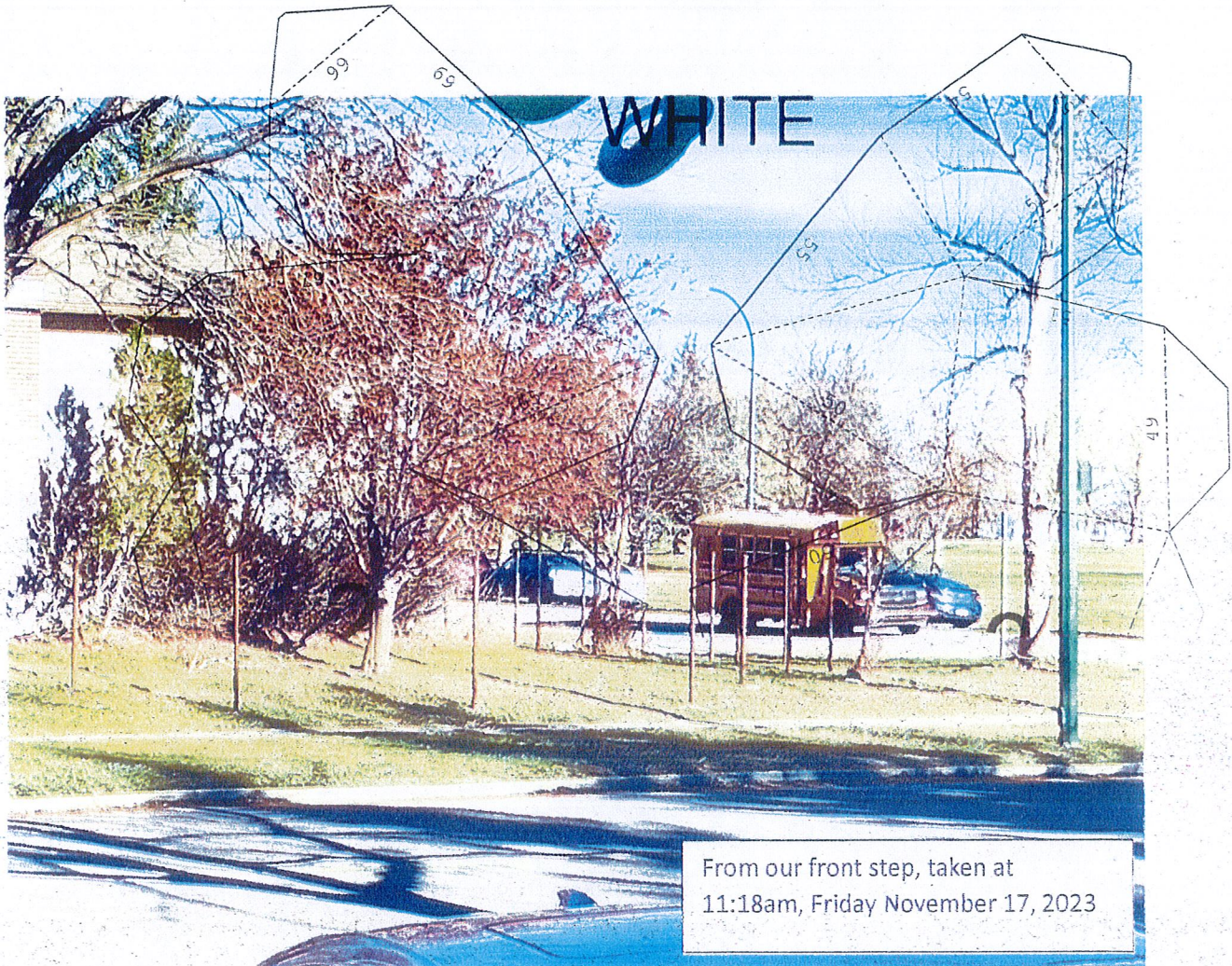


Routine (slow) traffic.

Photo taken Wednesday, November 17, 2023 at 8:38am.



Night angle. Taken Tuesday, November 14 at 8:48pm.





View from our living room. Photos taken Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 3:45pm



January 9 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of one toddler and soon to be 2 at Where The Wild Things Grow West. I have been a client there for almost 2 years . My family lives in copper-wood so the daycare being a close 5 minute drive is the absolute best case situation for us , having the day care so close gives us more time in the morning and evening with our kids. Where The Wild Things Grow is such an amazing program, it's so hard sending your kids to a place to be taken care of by people you don't know initially, 2 years later and these people are like family to my son and us. He is so excited to go to day care every day and I find that so amazing, when I pick him up there are days he even cries because he doesn't want to go home. As a full time working mom I always felt so guilty never giving my kid the outdoor play and sensory programs he deserves, however seeing the outdoor activities and indoor activities this day care does for my kid relieves me of a lot of that guilt so I can enjoy my time intentionally with my family.

I am in support of their request to extend their 6ft portion of fencing. The reasons I support this is as follows:

1) It would give the staff and children of the Program a bit more safety and security when playing outdoors. The 3ft fence is legally allowed by the City and Childcare Licensing has no regulations on fencing at all, the 6ft extension is the Program taking the children's safety and well being as top priority and they want to make sure they do everything in their power to limit risks and hazards. I feel that this speaks to them going the extra mile to ensure that they do right by the children and families in their care.

2) I love that the Program utilizes the nearby parks and encourage the continued use, however if children can remain on the premises and still get the benefits of outdoor play especially in colder weather, why would we encourage the Program to take them across the street unnecessarily when they can use the play yards daily and the park when the weather is nicer. This way cold children can quickly be moved inside instead of having to walk back from the park.

3) A 6ft fence would limit toys or balls from going into traffic since children have more of a challenge practicing their throwing skills over a 6ft fence than a 3ft fence.

4) The extension gives the Program more flexibility in how they can safely maneuver children to the advantage of the neighbourhood. The 6ft extension in the front would mean that the older group that can have 20 children can be split up to limit noise or moved into another yard away from neighbour's back yards during the day.

5) It also means that neighbourhood noise could diminish with having a safe, accessible yard for each age group to be in, the one yard that they currently have now will not have to stagger groups throughout the day so that all children can play outside. They can use multiple yards at once and give the children what they need to develop and be apart of the community.

6) Outdoor play reduced stress 4 times more effectively than indoor play. There are numerous studies and articles on why outdoor play is crucial for children when they are in their formative years. Many young children are being forced inside where they are not allowed as many big motor movements, and I want my child [or children] to have the best possible chances at developing during these years.

7) Extending the fence does not mean an increase in children attending the facility but gives my child [or children] more room and spaces to grow and develop their skills.

With all of this in mind, I strongly encourage the Board to take these points into consideration when deliberating the requested extension of the 6ft fence. Where The Wild Things Grow has been very important to me and my family. We would love to see it continue to grow and educate children in their safe and appropriate manner. Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Brittany Tolton-Baines
(403)654-8533
116 coalbanks blvd west T1J 2G9