

'Just keep things the way they are,' parent tells council of daycare [CA-PE] ^[1]

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AVAILABILITY

See text below.

EXCERPTS

Parents in Cornwall, P.E.I., lined up at Tuesday night's council meeting to tell councillors they are worried about a plan to sell the community's daycare to private interests.

Mayor Patrick MacFadyen asked the parents to trust council to make the right decision.

Council had originally planned to hold the vote on the sale of its daycare at the Ferry Road Centre behind closed doors, but opened the meeting following complaints from the public. Council spent two hours listening to emotional appeals to keep the Ferry Road Centre in municipal hands.

In addition to a daycare for about 15 children, the centre offers and before- and after-school programs for about 60 more. Chances Family Centre has put in an offer to buy Ferry Road and take over the programs.

That wasn't sitting well with parents at the meeting.

"Why don't you just keep things the way they are because everyone seems pretty happy with the way things are except for the council," said Tara Hughes, who has a son at the centre.

Monica Rooney added that a parent just knows when something isn't right, and that this is one of those times.

"My instinct tells me if there is a change coming that I feel is going to have an impact on my child, or that may be a possible risk for my child, automatically my hair is up and I have the claws out," said Rooney.

"I think anybody on this council who's had a child has had at least one circumstance in their life where they've stood up and said, 'OK, wait a minute'."

...

Council will make its decision on the future of the centre at its next council meeting, scheduled for the third week of June.

- reprinted from CBC News

Region: Prince Edward Island ^[2]

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