

Childcare subsidy cuts hurt students ^[1]

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EXCERPTS

Recent changes to Sudbury's child-care subsidy program are actually making it more difficult for people (especially single mothers) to find work.

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Last year, when I finished my exams, I was given 90 days to find a job before I lost my child-care funding. This is because the policy took into consideration that jobs do not appear out of thin air, they take work to acquire. This year, someone decided that I am to lose my childcare space the day the exam period is over.

How am I supposed to find a job without day care? I was told that I can look for work while my children are in school. But what I am supposed to do when I find a job and have already lost my day-care spots? I will have to turn down the job because I won't be able to go to work without day care --especially because my son is in kindergarten and, as such, is not yet in school full time.

It took me three years to get through the waiting list at the day care my children need to be in for me to attend grad school in September. It is the only child-care centre in the city that is open later than 6 p.m. and my classes will run in the evening. That means that if I lose this day-care spot, I may not be able to go to grad school in September.

This program needs to be changed back immediately to take into consideration the time involved in finding a job. I am not asking for my child-care costs to be covered indefinitely, just for a month or two to find a summer job.

- reprinted from the Sudbury Star

Region: Ontario ^[2]

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