



News Release

For Immediate Release

GROWING FAMILIES, GROWING COMMUNITY

Altona, MB. December 21, 2021:

As our community and families grow, so too does the need for childcare.

Kiddie Sunshine Centre (KSC) has been in operation in Altona since 1983, and is the only public childcare centre that serves our community year-round. In 2019, it came under new directorship, and has a motivated Board of Directors focused on the future growth of the Kiddie Sunshine Centre. Currently, the Centre is licensed to provide care for a total of 49 children, and sees an average waitlist of at least 50 children waiting for space at any given time. The Board of Directors has previously explored the expansion and enhancement of services through renovating the current Centre Avenue location; however, this location does not provide sufficient space for future growth, and requires extensive upgrades to meet fire, electrical and plumbing codes, as well as to ensure accessibility of service.

Instead of renovating their existing space, the Kiddie Sunshine Centre has proposed building a brand new childcare facility with 135 spaces. This long-term expansion plan is focused on sustainably meeting the needs of the community now, and in the future.

Last month, the Kiddie Sunshine Centre Expansion Committee met with the Border Land School Division Board to review a robust plan for expansion that included amalgamation of Rhineland Childcare Centre and Kiddie Sunshine Centre, and a lease of land on the BLSD property for the construction of this new facility, among other details.

Following that meeting, the Border Land School Division Board of Directors indicated their willingness to support this expansion project by the way of a long term lease on a section of land at 120 9th St NW in Altona at a nominal amount of a dollar per year, and also officially approved the amalgamation between the two childcare centres. As of January 1, 2022, the Kiddie Sunshine Centre and Rhineland Childcare Centre will amalgamate to pave the way for a brand new, larger childcare centre in Altona.

The next steps for this project will be to launch into sourcing funding for the construction of the building, with an ambitious three year growth plan.

Quotes:

“Kiddie Sunshine Centre has been working towards expanding and enhancing childcare in the community for the past few years. We are excited to collaborate with Borderland School Division and welcome Rhineland Child Care Centre into the Kiddie Sunshine Centre Family. Access to quality childcare is critical for working families in our community. The planned construction of a new 135 space daycare Centre will more than double the existing number of licensed spaces in our community. The expansion will benefit both working families and employers in Altona and the surrounding areas and will also create new jobs in Early Childhood Education,” said Laura Wiebe, Chairperson Kiddie Sunshine Board of Directors. “We are so thankful for our community supporters and most importantly want to express our gratitude for all the Early Childhood Educators in our community. Without them, none of this would be possible.”

“Town of Altona Council is in full support of the joining forces of Kiddie Sunshine Centre and Rhineland Childcare Centre,” said Mayor Al Friesen. “This ambitious project will address the critical need for additional daycare space in our community now and for the foreseeable future. It's an undertaking that will be critical in attracting young families that will grow our community and our local economy. We encourage the community to throw its collective shoulder behind this initiative.”

“BLSO is excited to be part of a partnership that will bring a brand new daycare facility along with more, much needed, daycare spaces and employment opportunities to the community. We look forward to working together with Kiddie Sunshine Centre as we sort details and see a successful project to fruition. We know it will be a lengthy process, and we look forward to updating everyone on the progress being made.” Krista Curry, Border Land School Division Superintendent.

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