



January 25, 2024

Attention families of Footsteps Family Centre,

In an effort to be open and transparent, the Board of Directors of Footsteps Family Centre would like to inform you that we are beginning the decision making process of looking at closing all school ages programming, including Before and After School Care within the current schools we service; Our Lady of Charity, Holy Cross, Gorham and Ware, and Five Mile.

At this time there is no set date on when or if these programs will be closed. The Board of Directors of Footsteps Family Centre and Executive Director formally approached the Chairpersons of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and Lakehead Public Schools, your elected trustees, to join in the process of supporting school aged childcare programs in our schools, in the absence of Footsteps continuing to operate them. We have forwarded a copy of our formal letter to Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, Lise Vaugeois, MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North, Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan.

The decision to cease servicing these programs has not been made lightly. Major factors in this outcome include, but are not limited to, safety for students and staff, staffing levels, and quality of care.

We recognize that this will be challenging for families, but also understand that the school boards, under the Ministry of Education guidelines, hold a shared responsibility in offering these programs. Our hope is that all parties involved will partner with us in transition, ensuring our children and families within these programs are well supported for years to come.

We thank you for your understanding and patience at this time and ensure we will continue to communicate with our families the outcome of our meetings and the plan moving forward, no later than the end of March 2024. Footsteps will continue to operate as usual until the end of the current school year when we should have a firm decision on this matter.

Best regards,

Footsteps Family Centre