



Best Start Transition Plan

October 28, 2005

Executive Summary

Best Start is ten year initiative by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based early learning and care strategy designed to give Ontario's children the best possible start in life and to help them achieve success in school. The City of Brantford as the Consolidated Municipal Systems Manager (CMSM), for child care in Brantford and Brant County, is accountable for playing a lead role in planning for and implementing the expansion of child care and related services.

For 2005/2006, 85 additional spaces will be added to the child care system of Brant. Total funding allocation for 2005/06 is \$2,865,000. This initial phase will be aimed at children in the Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten age groups.

Initial Network planning efforts will result in three key products by December 31, 2005. These include:

- establishment of the Network and Terms of Reference
- development of a Transition Plan (this document)
- development of a Implementation Plan

The development of the Transition Plan has focused on identifying areas in Brant where there is a need for increased child care spaces. Through the use of the Early Development Index (EDI), demographic statistics, a survey of parents and a review of existing child care services and early learning programs, a number of "neighbourhoods" have been identified for further investigation. This investigation will occur in the development of the Implementation Plan, due December 31, 2005.

As part of the development of the transition plan it was identified that 36 child care spaces have already been developed from the 85 Best Start spaces. It was also identified that approximately 55 spaces of before and after school care can be developed this year (2005/06). These developments will not require extensive capital investment and as a result there will be potential for the development of new full-day child care spaces.

"It takes a whole village to raise a child"
African Proverb

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Brantford Best Start Network

Transition Plan

1.0 Introduction

In the November 2004 the Government of Ontario announced a new initiative, Best Start. Best Start is a government-wide priority to provide children in Ontario with the best possible start in their lives. This initiative is a result of the 2003 Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) and the new 2005 federal funds. It is a multi-year strategic transformation initiative that various ministries will undertake to support the government's key priority of student success. Best Start is a comprehensive early learning and care strategy that requires different ministries to work together to address the factors that put young children at risk, and to create communities that support healthy child development and learning.

Best Start is a partnership with parents that recognizes the key role parents play in preparing their children for school. It is also a partnership among ministries and among different levels of government (i.e., provincial, federal and municipal) to help provide the services and supports to help children succeed. These ministries include the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

Best Start will use an integrated approach to the provision of services at the community level and will help create a comprehensive system of services that support children, including francophone, aboriginal and children with special needs, from birth through to the transition into school. Some services, such as parenting programs, health services, infant development services and Preschool Speech and Language will be available to families and children at any time in the early years (i.e., from the prenatal stage through to Grade 1); others, such as screening services or certain learning programs, are provided at specific ages and stages of young children's lives. Best Start includes services for young children, regardless of circumstances.

When fully implemented and developed, Best Start will include:

- Neighbourhood early learning and care hubs
- A rapid expansion of child care spaces for children in junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten outside of school hours leading to a seamless, integrated day of care for children (identified in this document as non-school hours JK / SK child care)
- A half-day learning program and child care spaces for two-and-a-half to four-year olds
- Early and ongoing screening of newborns to identify needs and supports
- Enhanced parenting, nutrition, preschool speech and language and other service supports
- Early identification of specialized hearing and language needs
- A comprehensive 18-month well-baby check-up

2.0 Best Start In Brantford and Brant County

For 2005/2006 \$2,865,000 and an additional 85 child care spaces will be added to the child care system in Brant County and Brantford. There exists a five year commitment from the Provincial and Federal government to fund the Best Start project. Planning for this new investment and the overall goals of Best Start will be accomplished by the Brant/Brantford Best Start Network. The organizing meeting of the Network was held in August, 2005.

The Best Start Network of Brant/Brantford will plan, implement and monitor the Best Start initiative in Brant County. The network through coordination, collaboration and cooperation will work to provide an array of supports for children, prenatal to six years of age, and their families to ensure that all children will have the opportunity to achieve the successful transition to school by the time they start Grade 1. This will be accomplished in a way that reflects community priorities and in accordance with provincial guidelines.

Child care and children services in Brant/Brantford area provided by a number of service providers and include a mix of non-profit and for-profit providers. Led by the Director of Child Care Services, Corporation of the City of Brantford, the Best Start Network was developed by drawing members from these agencies and child care providers. Additional members consist of parents, a First Nations member and a Francophone member (Appendix A). Key players in the Network include both the public (Grand Erie District School Board GEDSB) and separate school boards (Brant Haldimand Norfolk District Catholic School Board BHNDCSB), City of Brantford and Brant County Health Unit. Members have committed to a Terms of Reference (Appendix B) and have worked towards the full implementation of the Best Start initiative in accordance of community priorities and the Best Start implementation guidelines.

A key initial priority of the Brant/Brantford Best Start Network was to establish a set of guiding principles to be used in the planning process. The Network established that planning would:

- Be based on identified community needs
- Ensure services are available, affordable and accessible for all
- Be child and parent oriented
- Respect diverse cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds
- Include supports re: participation for children with physical, developmental, language, learning or behavioural difficulties
- Work in partnership with families
- Meet the needs of parents at home, work or in school
- Protect the best interests of children
- Ensure that a broad range of input affecting children is incorporated
- Include cross Ministerial input and collaboration
- Ensure quality services.

Initial Network planning efforts have resulted in three key products by December 31, 2005. These include:

- establishment of the Network and Terms of Reference (September, 2005)

- development of a Transition Plan (this document)
- development of a Implementation Plan

These products will result in the development of 85 additional child care spaces in Brant County and an additional expenditure of \$2,865,000 by the end of March 2006

3.0 Community Profile

Information presented in this Section of the Environmental Scan has been taken, for the most part, from the 2001 Census data contained in the *Community Profile Ontario Early Years in Brant*. The next census will be taken in 2006 and will provide more up to date information.

Demographic Indicators

Brantford/Brant consists of over 1,093 square kilometers and in 2001 was home to a population of 118,485. The majority of the population resided in the urban areas of Brantford (73%) and Paris (9%) while the remaining 18% of the population resided in the County's rural areas. Immediately adjacent to Brant County is Six Nations – a community comprised of the Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca and Tuscarora nations and the largest of the 608 First Nations in Canada. While the child care system managed by the City of Brantford Child Care Services Division does not provide programs on-reserve, it is important to note that in 2001, approximately 50% of the 21,103 Six Nations Band members were living off-reserve and therefore had access to the local child care system.

Table 1 illustrates the population distribution of Brantford/Brant children from birth to age fourteen. Despite the fact that it has not been possible to present single year age groupings, the information contained in the table does provide a sense of the potential demand for child care programs.

Table 1
2001 Population Distribution Birth to Age Fourteen

	Age 0-4	Age 5-14	% of Population Aged 14 and Under
City of Brantford	5,160	12,050	19.9%
Township of Brantford *	295	945	19.1%
Township of Burford *	335	935	21.3%
Township of Oakland *	80	205	20.9%
Township of Onondaga *	95	295	21.9%
Town of Paris *	555	1,400	19.8%
Township of South Dumfries *	360	1,015	22.3%
Total Brantford/Brant	6,910	16,920	20.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

Note: While it is acknowledged that municipal amalgamation occurred in the County of Brant in 1999, the information presented for the various Townships and Towns is nevertheless informative for planning purposes.

* Amalgamated (1999) as the County of Brant

The population of Brantford/Brant grew by 3.4% between 1996 and 2001 – a rate that varied somewhat by municipality. For instance, as a result of subdivision development, the former Township of South Dumfries (in particular St. George) grew by 13.6% while the former Town of Paris experienced a 9.9% increase in population. The Ministry of Finance has projected that the Brantford/Brant population will increase by 13.6% between 2001 and 2021. During the same period, it is estimated that the population of

those from birth to age nineteen will decline by 8.5% while the population of young adults aged 20-44 is expected to increase by a similar percentage.

It is noted that there has been significant recent development in the south west of Brantford, south west of Paris and north of St. George. These large developments will place significant demands on all services, including child care. Population statistics for these areas are not reflective of recent development. The 2006 census will be the first opportunity to examine the extent to the growth in these areas.

Appendix C contains the most recent Brantford/Brant population projections for those residents from birth to age fourteen.

Social Indicators

Family composition continues to be a key indicator of poverty as, despite positive trends in recent years, nearly one in two children still lives in poverty among female lone parent families. Stated another way, children in female lone parent families are four times as likely to be poor than are children in two-parent families.¹ In 2001, 63.9% of Brantford/Brant families had children and of this figure, 48.2% of families with children were two parent families, 12.7% were led by female lone parents and 3% were led by male lone parents.

Canada-wide figures² also show a strong link between ethnicity and poverty. Specifically, 41% of Aboriginal children living in Canada off-reserve live in poverty. Recent immigrants and refugee families with children under 14 years of age fare no better as the 2001 child poverty rate for these families was 42.4% as compared to 17.4% for non-immigrant children. Further, the rate of poverty for children under 14 years of age who belong to visible minority groups is 34% compared to 19% for all children in the same age group. Even for those individuals whose ethnicity does not have a direct negative bearing on their economic status, access to high quality child care is of importance. As a means of promoting this access, service providers must be sensitive to cultural backgrounds as they develop their programs and activities, plan their meals and communicate with children and parents.

According to the 2001 Census, only 13% of the 2001 Brantford/Brant population was born outside of Canada as compared to 26.8% of Ontario residents. Of those Brantford/Brant residents who immigrated to Canada in recent years, the highest percentage of individuals came from India (12%) followed by the United Kingdom (8.4%) and the United States (8%). These immigration patterns have a direct bearing on the number and percentage of visible minorities in Brantford/Brant as only 4,905 individuals, representing 4.14% of the population, identified themselves as a visible minority. Census data pertaining to home language reveals that in 2001, 98.2% of Brantford/Brant residents considered English to be their first language. Of the 0.54% of residents who indicated that they did not use English or French as their home language, the most frequently sited home languages were Polish and Vietnamese.

Economic Indicators

¹ Statistics Canada. *Income Trends in Canada, 2001* as cited in *Honouring Our Promises: Meeting The Challenges To End Child And Family Poverty*.

² Ibid.

Research continues to show strong linkages between educational attainment, employment status and family income. As a result, such indicators have a bearing on a family's economic security and thus on the demand for and affordability of child care programs.

In 2001, the Brantford/Brant labour force participation rate was 67% while the unemployment rate was 6% – figures that are comparable to those evidenced in Ontario as a whole. When one examines labour force participation rates and unemployment rates of those Brantford/Brant families with children, differences related to the gender of the parent and the ages of the children become apparent as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Labour Force Rates of Brantford/Brant Residents with Children

	Population Aged 15+ with Children	Population Aged 15+ with Children Under Age 6	Male Aged 15+ with Children Under Age 6	Female Aged 15+ with Children Under Age 6
Employment Rate	78.5%	77.0%	90.8%	65.4%
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	6.5%	3.5%	9.9%
Participation Rate	81.9%	82.3%	93.9%	72.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 as cited in *Community Profile Ontario Early Years in Brant*, January 2004

The labour force rates discussed above are some of the many factors that have a bearing on median family income. Adult education levels and the composition of the industrial base also influence median family incomes. In 2001, the median family income in Brantford/Brant was reported to be \$57,000 – a figure that is approximately \$4,000 less than the Ontario median family income. As has been the trend for a number of decades, female lone parent families had a median family income of \$9,000 less than their male counterparts.

Despite reported median family income levels that are below comparable Ontario figures, the incidence of low-income households in Brantford/Brant was 12.7% in 2001 as compared to 14.4% for the Province as a whole. While specific figures are not readily available for Brantford/Brant, recent statistics do reveal that approximately 13% of Ontario's children live in poverty.³

In 2001, residents of Brantford/Brant reported lower education levels than the provincial average. Specifically, 19.5% of Brantford/Brant residents aged 20-34 and 22.8% of residents aged 35-44 had less than a high school graduation certificate as compared to 13.2% and 17.3% respectively of Ontario residents. While Brantford/Brant residents had fewer university degrees than the Ontario population, more local residents held trade certificates and college diplomas. These figures may therefore be reflective of the fact that there were 9.5% more Brantford/Brant residents employed in the manufacturing and construction sectors than in Ontario as a whole.

³ Ibid.

Child-Related Indicators

Between 1998 and 2000, 3,916 children were born in Brantford/Brant – an average of 1,305 children per year. A slightly higher percentage of these children (6.3%) were considered low birth weight babies (less than 2500 grams) as compared to Ontario figures (5.8%) for the same period.

Brantford/Brant continues to experience a high rate of births to teenage mothers. For instance, in 1999 the live birth rate amongst teenage mothers aged 15 to 19 was almost double the provincial rate and in 2000 was almost 1.5 times higher. In addition, Brantford/Brant had the second highest rate of teenage pregnancies (defined as live births, abortions or still births) in the Province during 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000. While the teenage pregnancy rate dropped from 55.4 per 1000 in 1998 to 46.2 per 1000 in 2000, these rates still far exceed the corresponding provincial rates of 38.8 and 33.5.

While specific figures are not readily available to develop a profile of Brantford/Brant children under the age of six with special needs, data from the National Longitudinal Study on Children and Youth (NLSCY) can be extrapolated to provide a general degree of insight. For example, the NLSCY reveals that 10% of young children have hyperactivity challenges, 9.7% have a conduct disorder, and 8.7% have emotional problems. This means, therefore, that approximately 1,000 Brantford/Brant children aged two to six may exhibit hyperactivity, 970 may have a conduct disorder, and 870 may experience emotional problems. Further, Autism Canada contends that one in 300 children is likely to suffer from autism/PDD. Lastly, data available from Health Canada states that the 1997 Brantford/Brant rate of congenital anomalies (including Down Syndrome, neural tube defects plus hydrocephalus, cleft palate and lip) was 56.2 per 1,000 live births – a rate that was considerably higher than the Ontario rate of 41.9.

4.0 Parent Survey

Although there is strong parent representation on the Brant/Brantford Best Start Network it was recognized early on that in order to gather more information from parents on their child care needs that it would be necessary to conduct a survey. During September and October, 2005 a survey was distributed to parents throughout Brant County and Brantford. Recipients included all parents of children in JK/SK classes, all parents with children in licensed child care and parents participating in Ontario Early Years programs and Launch Pad programs. Approximately 5500 surveys were distributed with 1085 surveys returned for a response rate of 20%. This represented 1950 children.

Child Care Services

Of the parents responding to the survey 56% reported that they used some form of child care service.

Table 3 – Child Care Services - All Children

Total for all Children (n=1950)	Percent (%)	Number (n)
Childs Home	28	311
Other's Home	45	495
Child Care Centre	40	434

Table 4 – Child Care Services -Children Age 0-6

Children Age 0-6 (n=a850)	Percent (%)	Number (n)
Childs Home	26	214
Other's Home	41	352
Child Care Centre	41	345

Responses indicate that there is a relatively consistent percentage of children (40%) receiving care in child care centres but that the majority of children from the response group receive care in their own home or another home.

Of the children in the 0-6 age group 28% are involved in some form of before and/or after school program. This could be in a child care centre or in an “in-home” arrangement.

There is a strong indication that parents would use child care centres if they were located in neighbourhood schools. Over 62% of parents indicated that they would use such a centre. Parents of children age 0-6 indicated that over one third would use before/after school programs and just under one third would use summer programs.

5.0 Early Years Services

One of the major components of the Best Start initiative is the development of multi-service “hubs”. The hubs will provide a variety of early years services in neighbourhood locations (most likely schools) making access convenient for parents. Respondents to the parent survey indicated that there would be a significant increase in the utilization of early years services if they were located in neighbourhood schools.

Table 5 – Early Years Services

	Currently Use	Would use in neighbourhood School location
Parent Education Programs	11.6%	34.1%
Speech and Language Screening	14.9%	21.5%
Vision and Hearing Checks	10.7%	26.2%
Behaviour problems support	4.8%	19.8%
Growth and Development Check-ups	11.5%	30.2%
Library Services	33.8%	45.7%
Parent and Child Drop-in	30.5%	41.8%
Child Only Drop-in	1.8%	25.2%
Breast Feeding Support	2.8%	6.5%
Public Health Nurse	7.1%	14.9%
Dental Screening	9.0%	19.5%
Recreation programs	22.3%	54.0%

Access to these programs needs to be provided during non-tradition operating hours. Approximately 48% of respondents indicated that they would access services if available during evening hours, while 39% indicated that they would access services on weekends.

One surprising finding is that although a key element of neighbourhood hubs is to make services available close to home over 58% indicated that they would drive to the hub. Only 3.2% would take public transit. Just over half indicated that they would walk.

6.0 Junior and Senior Kindergarten Profile

Often a child's first encounter with the school system is his/her entry into junior or senior kindergarten. Estimates have been provided by both public and separate school boards indicating that for the 2005/06 school year that there will be 705 children enrolled in JK/SK in the separate school system while the public school system will have 1777 children in these grades. Estimates have been aggregated as some schools have combined JF/SK classes.

A key issue in Brant County for JK/SK provision has been the scheduling of these classes. The separate school board has JK/SK classes for full days, every other day and every other Friday. The public board has varying schedules depending on individual schools. As a result there may be alternating full day programs or ½ day/every day programs. Child Care providers and parents have reported that the inconsistent schedules make child care arrangements difficult to schedule. Child care providers find it difficult to schedule staff since they may be drawing children from schools with different schedules and parents find it difficult to find child care spaces that have openings on the days they require.

7.0 Child Care Profile

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services has issued licenses to twenty-seven (27) non-profit and commercial centre-based child care programs in Brantford/Brant, an increase of two from the 2004-2006 service plan. Six of these programs operate on a for-profit basis while the remainder are non-profit. The 1174 spaces provided by these programs are distributed across the following age categories in the locations identified in Table 3. It should be mentioned that the licenses held by several of the centres allow them a level of flexibility within age groupings on the condition that appropriate staffing levels are in place. As a result, the actual number of children in a particular age-group may change from time to time.

Table 6

Summary of Licensed Capacity in Day Nurseries

Location	Licensed Day Nursery Programs	Infant Spaces < 18 months	Toddler Spaces 18 – 30 months	Preschool Spaces 2.5 – 5 years	JK/SK 3 Years 8 Months to 5 years (included in preschool)	School Age Spaces 6-9 Years	School Age 6 – 12 Years	Total Licensed Capacity
Brantford	19	28	110	542		120		800
Burford and Scotland	2	0	11	48		12		71
Paris	2	0	10	64		30		104
St. George	3	0	0	72		30		102
Jerseyville	1			16		0		16
Total	27	28	131	758	32	0	225	1174

Source: Ministry of Children and Youth Services, September 15, 2005

Of the 21 non-profit centers, four are operated within schools (3 public, 1 Catholic). The three operated in public schools have 112 spaces in two elementary and one secondary school. The center located in a catholic school (secondary school) has 32 spaces. (Appendix D)

Two licensed home day care programs are also available to Brantford/Brant families. These non-profit programs, operated by the City of Brantford Child Care Services Division and by Wee Watch Private Home Day Care, provide supervised child care placements in provider's homes and are frequently able to accommodate evening, early morning and weekend care requirements. As of September, 2005 the programs had a total of 31 licensed homes consisting of 79 spaces.

Ontario Works clients are eligible for child care subsidies, either in a formal or informal setting. As of September 2005 there were 60 spaces in informal child care arrangements and a further 50 spaces in formal child care settings.

The City of Brantford funds the Early Integration Program of the Lansdowne Children's Centre on behalf of children with special needs who are accessing licensed centre-based or home-based child care programs. Specifically, the special needs resourcing envelope of the City's child care budget provides funds for the Centre's Resource Teachers and Resource Teacher Assistants. In so doing, the inclusion of children (five years of age and under) is promoted and supported in Brantford/Brant's 27 licensed centre-based programs and two licensed private home day care programs

Early Years Services

With the designation of Community Living Brant as the 'lead agency' for the Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant (OEYC), the programs and services of the Professional Resource Centre were assumed under the early years centre umbrella in March 2002. The OEYC has established a main centre in Brantford and six satellite centres distributed throughout Brantford (one) and Brant County (five). (Appendix E)

In addition to the OEYC centres a local initiative, Kids Can Fly, provides child development and parenting programs in community based settings, including schools. Programs include Parachute (for children up to 12 months), Roots of Empathy and Early Childhood Educator Day, Book Camp and Children's Authors Wine and Cheese. They also partner in the Patta Cake program, a drop in program for babies up to 18 months. Kids Can Fly is a key partner in the Launch Pad Programs that are distributed throughout Brantford and Brant County. Launch Pads are a drop-in program for children (age 0-6) and caregivers. They are provided through a partnership of community agencies, including school boards, with the agencies/boards providing staffing for the programs. (Appendix F)

Specific details related to other social, recreational and health programs that complement the child care system and the early year's system will soon be available through the Brantford/Brant Early Years Community Inventory. This inventory is being developed by the Early Years Data Analysis Coordinator in conjunction with the Haldimand-Norfolk Community Information Centre. An updated version will be available in November 2005 (<http://www.eycbrant.ca>). The information is updated and maintained by the Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant.

Aboriginal

Although Brant County borders on the most populous First Nation in Canada there is a lack of any Aboriginal specific child care services in Brantford or Brant County. With over 20,000 band members, half of whom live off-reserve, The Six Nations of The Grand River Territory, represents a significant part of the population in Brant/Brantford. With the recent closure of the native friendship centre, Pine Tree Native Centre, any aboriginal

specific parenting programs in Brantford have also closed. Although there are no aboriginal specific child care or parenting service in Brant/Brantford there are a variety of services available on Six Nations that reflect the unique culture of the Six Nations. At this time, attempts are being made to reorganize Pine Tree so that programs can restart or continue.

Identifying neighbourhoods with large Aboriginal populations can be difficult. Many members of the Six Nations do not participate in the Federal census. As a result, most data is unreliable. That said, it is clear from discussions with community leaders that relatively large aboriginal populations exist in the Eagle Place and Core neighbourhoods.

Francophone

The Francophone population in Brant/Brantford is relatively small when compared to other ethnic groups. Just over 1% of the population reported that their first language was French and that they could still understand it (Statistics Canada, 2001). That said there are three French immersion schools (2 public – 196 JK/SK, 1 Catholic- 41 JK/SK) and one total French school (Catholic) with 23 children in JK/SK. There is a clear interest from parents in introducing French to their children or in maintaining their French culture.

École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys, the French elementary school has indicated that they currently have 12 JK and 11 SK children attending. These children come from across Brant County and Brantford. A new program has been opened “petite école” that is aimed at children between 2 and 5 years old. There is also an indication that a child care centre may be developed in the near future.

Table 7 Child Care Service Statistics as of December 31, 2004

Local Services	Data
Spaces	
number of licensed full day equivalent subsidized spaces for all age groups	55000
number of non-profit and for-profit child care spaces	893 non-profit 281 for Profit
licensed capacity for all age groups,	1104
Children	
number of children enrolled in licensed child care centres for all age groups	N/A *
number of children subsidized in licensed child care centres for all age groups	631
number of children subsidized in approved recreation programs	42(summer only)
number of children served in licensed private-home daycares for all age groups	100
number of children subsidized in licensed private-home daycares for all age groups	57
Agencies/Centres/Programs/Services:	
number of licensed private-home day care agencies and number of approved homes	2 agencies 31 homes
number of non-profit and for-profit private-home day care agencies	2 non-profit
number of licensed child care centres	27
number of non-profit and for-profit child care centres	20 non-profit 7 for-profit
number of child care resource centres	2
number of approved recreation programs with a purchase of service contract	3
number of special needs resourcing programs	1
number of other related programs for children, e.g., Healthy Babies, Healthy Children, preschool speech and language services, infant hearing, autism initiatives, children's mental health, infant development	
range of child care services available, including full-time, part-time, before and after school, emergency, rural and any others	All except emergency care

* Due to multiple licenses and inconsistent reporting from Child Care operators this number is currently not available

Table 7 Child Care Service Statistics - Continued

School Related:	
number of licensed before and/or after school programs	11
number of licensed spaces in schools, by school board	Grand Erie District School Board 112 Brant, Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board 62
number of licensed programs in schools by school board, including the number of stand-alone before and after school programs, JK/SK stand-alone programs and programs serving infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children	GEDSB 4 BHNCD SB 2 (does not include before/after school) 126 spaces GEDSB 104 spaces BHNCD SB
Francophone Related:	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of centres providing services in French (also identify number of centres providing services in French in schools) licensed capacity in schools for all age groups • number of fee subsidies for all age groups 	
Other: all other service data elements as outlined in the service contract	Resource Centres Workshops – 97 Participants – 701 Play Groups - 3023

8.0 2004-2006 Program Expenditures

As a condition of the transfer of service management responsibilities from the Ministry to the City of Brantford, the City was required to maintain existing fee subsidy, wage subsidy, special needs resourcing and resource centre service levels during its first year of its designation (i.e. during 2000). Beginning in 2001, the City was able, however, to negotiate its annual operating budget in such a way as to be more reflective of local service priorities. Table 8 illustrates these budget adjustments and also provides an indication of the expenditures that were attributed to each component of the City's child care budget.

Table 8

2004-2006 Approved Child Care Budgets and Actual Expenditures

Element	2004		2005		2006 *	
	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure
Fee Subsidy	1,515,093	1,451,393	1,575,000	1,575,000	1,575,000	1,575,000
Wage Subsidy **	1,284,165	1,284,165	1,355,832	1,355,83	1,349,314	1,349,314
Special Needs Resourcing	746,685	746,685	746,685	746,685	746,685	746,685
Resource Centres	405,480,	405,480	416,444	416,444	416,444	416,444
Ontario Works Child Care	305,000	121,976	305,000	305,000	305,000	305,000
TOTAL	4,256,423	4,009,699	4,398,961	4,398,961	4,392,443	4,392,443

* Does not include Best Start funding

** Wage Subsidy includes Wage Subsidy Pressures

Source: City of Brantford Child Care Services Division, October, 2005

Expenditures in the fee subsidy program have increased in recent years, in part, as a result of increased service demand. Increased fee subsidy expenditures resulted from the payment of market rate per diems to those licensed child care programs with which the City maintains a fee subsidy agreement. It should also be noted that under-expended fee subsidy dollars have been utilized each year, on a one-time basis, to address the health and safety needs of licensed child care programs. In 2004 \$56,754 was allocated to address 25 Health and Safety requests. Funds went to repair or replace indoor play areas, exterior playgrounds, food preparation areas, appliances and major systems.

Over the last three years that has been an overall increase in wage subsidies. This increase has provided assistance to child care providers as they have been experiencing difficulties in recruiting or retraining staff. Staffing issues has become a major concern for child care providers, especially in times of expansion of the system.

Brantford Best Start Allocation 2005/2006

Administration	Program Funding	Wage Enhancement Funding	Planning Funding	Total Operating Funding	Total Capital	Total Funding
\$149,900	\$1,184,900	\$164,600	\$60,6000	\$1,560,000	\$1,305,000	\$2,865,000

9.0 The Early Development Instrument

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a population-based tool used to assess children's development as they enter the formal education system. The EDI was developed in 1997 by Dr. Dan Offord and Dr. Magdalena Janus of the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University. It is a checklist consisting of over 120 questions about children's behaviour and developmental characteristics within the classroom. The EDI questionnaire is completed by teachers after several months of classroom interaction. The teachers base their answers on their knowledge and observations of the children. Although the EDI is completed for individual children, it is not meant to be used as an individual diagnostic tool. Data is interpreted at the group level (e.g. neighbourhoods, school boards, municipalities) and is best utilized when linked to other population and neighbourhood information. It is important to emphasize that the EDI is not a measure of a school's performance as it is administered to children when they enter kindergarten, but is a measure of the community's ability to support early child development.

The EDI collects information about a child's pre-kindergarten experiences, demographic characteristics and the child's abilities in five developmental domains. These five domains are defined as:

Physical Health and Well-Being – physical preparedness for the school day, fine and gross motor skills, energy level, and physical independence

Social Competence – competence and cooperation with others, ability to remember and follow rules, curiosity, approach to learning, problem-solving

Emotional Maturity – social behaviour, aggression, inattention, hyperactivity, anxious behaviours

Language and Cognitive Development – ability to use the language correctly, cognitive development aspects of literacy and numeracy (basic skills)

Communication Skills and General Knowledge – ability to communicate needs and thoughts to both adults and other children, ability to understand others, clear articulation, aspects of general knowledge

Purpose of the EDI

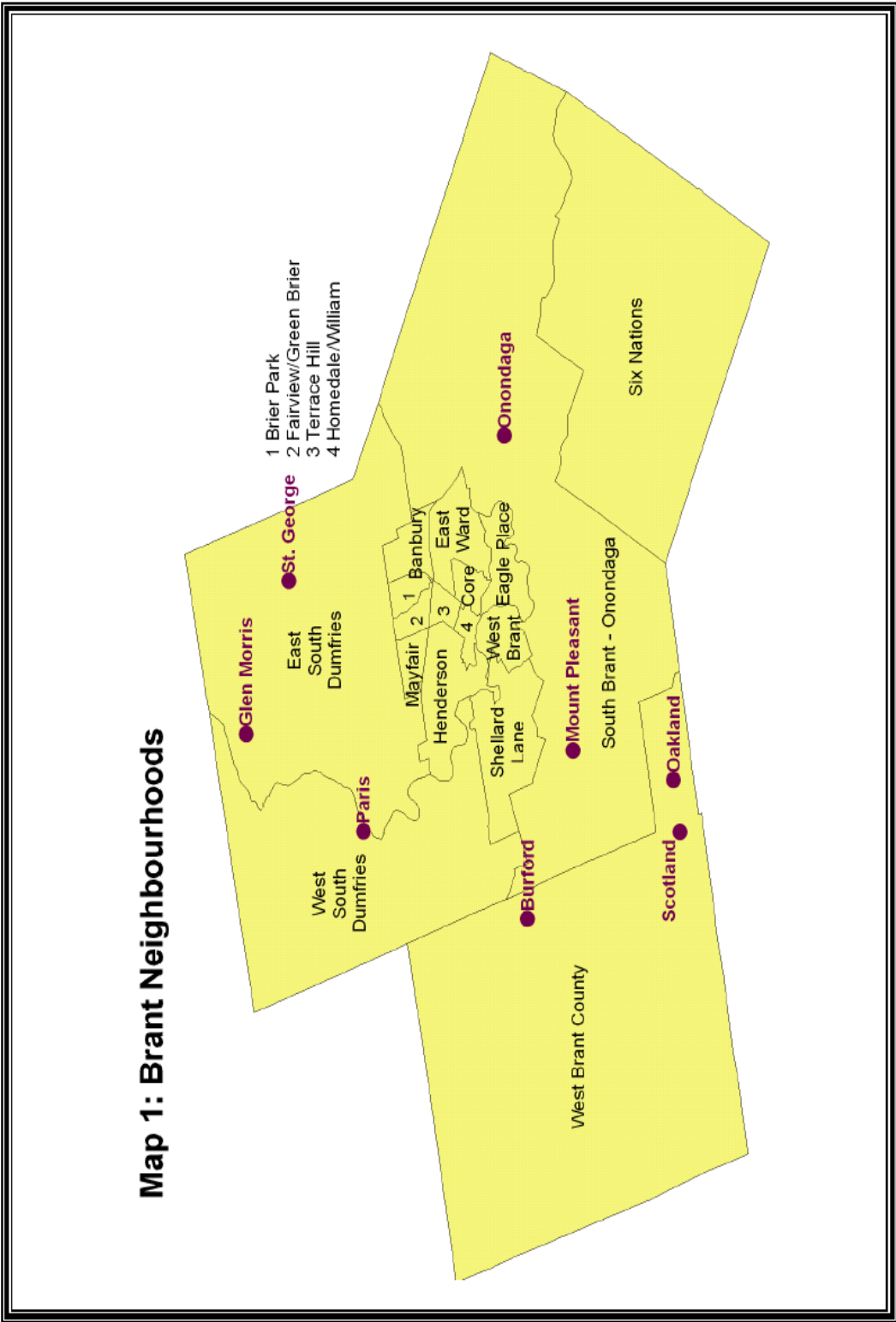
- to identify neighbourhoods within communities where children are thriving and where children are facing challenges.
- help communities assess their ability to support young children and their families at the neighbourhood level
- provide evidence for agencies to use when planning services and mobilize resources to improve outcomes for children so they enter the school system ready to benefit from education and be able to participate in school activities
- help schools plan by indicating areas of strength and identifying challenges that require support to improve learning outcomes
- establish a baseline and assist communities to monitor change and outcomes in early child development

EDI data was collected in Brant County in 2002 for all children in SK in both public and separate schools. A total of 1347 valid reports were completed. Reporting of the EDI scores was done on a neighbourhood level. Criteria for splitting the county into neighbourhoods included:

- areas had to be identifiable neighbourhoods that most residents would recognize
- at least 30 children assessed with the EDI
- three or more schools
- based on census dissemination area boundaries (2001 Census)

Map 1 shows the EDI neighbourhoods in Brant. Table 9 is a profile of key socio-economic indicators for each of the 16 neighbourhoods.

Map1- Brant County EDI Neighbourhoods



Source: Early Child Development in Brant – EDI Project Results, 2002

Table 9: Profile of Neighbourhoods for Key Socio-Economic Indicators

	Total Population	Pop. 0 to 6 Years %	Devel-mental Difficulties %	Lone Parent Families %	One-Year Mobility Rate %	Low Education %	Dependence On Gov. Income %	Family Poverty Rate %
East South Dumfries	6989	8.1	6.4	7.0	8.0	5.9	9.6	5.0
Brier Park	10915	7.8	6.4	13.2	11.9	7.9	11.2	6.9
Fairview – Green Bier	6304	6.2	9.7	11.9	8.4	10.1	16.1	7.6
Mayfair	5277	8.5	24.1	11.7	13.2	7.1	11.2	5.6
Homedale – William	6729	9.3	8.3	24.7	16.4	10.5	14.3	22.1
Henderson	6654	7.4	14.9	11.7	8.9	5.3	10.7	6.3
Shellard Lane	2685	9.7	7.8	10.4	14.2	3.2	8.8	5.4
West Brant	5831	8.0	21.4	22.0	16.7	9.4	14.3	19.8
Eagle Place	7064	10.0	5.4	25.2	13.8	11.0	17.9	26.0
Core	9815	9.0	16.3	23.7	20.2	12.3	19.1	24.9
East Ward	10180	9.3	21.1	22.3	17.2	11.2	16.1	21.6
Banbury	9836	9.9	11.7	15.4	9.6	5.7	8.4	10.7
Terrace Hill	6215	8.3	11.5	19.6	13.4	11.7	18.2	12.6
West South Dumfries	10741	8.3	13.4	12.2	12.7	6.7	9.4	9.3
South Brant - Onondaga	5863	7.9	18.4	8.8	8.1	7.2	10.9	4.5
West Brant County	6940	8.4	16.5	10.8	7.5	10.5	11.4	4.2
Brant County	31669	8.2	13.0	9.8	9.5	7.4	10.1	6.1
Brantford	86417	8.6	13.8	18.1	13.8	9.2	13.4	15.2
Ontario	11410045	8.5		15.2	13.9	8.7	9.8	14.4

Source: Early Child Development in Brant – EDI Project Results, 2002

Total population aged 0 to 6 years – total number of children aged 0 to 6 years that live within the neighbourhood. Neighbourhoods with large numbers of children may have large numbers of children at-risk and should be considered key areas for locating programs for children and parents.

Developmental Difficulties - percent of children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile on two or more EDI domains. Children having difficulties at entry into grade 1 are at significant risk of future academic failure.

Lone parent families – percent of total families that are headed by a lone parent. While most children from lone-parent households do well, research has shown that a higher proportion of children with cognitive and behavioural problems come from such families. In addition, a higher incidence of two-parent families living in a neighbourhood has been linked to healthier child and adolescent development.

One-year mobility rate – percent of residents that have moved in the past year. High rates of residential mobility and transience in neighbourhoods often correspond to social disruption and weakened social ties, which in turn can create a climate more conducive to crime and other types of anti-social behaviour.

Low Education – percent of total population aged 20 and older with less than a grade 9 education level. Education levels of residents are considered a crucial part of the socio-economic environment of communities where children grow and develop. Adults in the community with high levels of education are more likely to be employed, less likely to live in poverty, and more likely to serve as positive role models and mentors to their own children and children in the community.

Conversely, those with lower education levels may face diminished employment prospects, and are more likely to live in poverty.

Dependence on Government Incomes – percent of total income from government sources. Reliance on government transfer payments is a sign of economic problems within a household.

Family poverty rate - percent of census families below the low income cut-offs. Neighbourhoods where a high number of residents live in poverty can pose challenges to families and children, service providers and policy makers. Such areas may lack resources, and residents could be deprived of interaction with mainstream social networks and role models through processes of isolation and segregation. These neighbourhoods may also experience overcrowding, lower levels of safety, a less-desirable physical environment, and a scarcity of resources.⁴

EDI Scores

⁴ Early Child Development in Brant – EDI Project Results, 2002

Map 2 shows the percent of children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile on two or more EDI domains. Children scoring below the low score threshold on two or more domains are experiencing significant developmental difficulties and are at-risk for future problems.

Overall 13.8% of children aged 5 years in Brant are experiencing serious developmental difficulties. For Brant County, 13.0% of children are experiencing difficulties compared to 13.8% of children in the City of Brantford.

In Brant, there are neighbourhoods where only about 6% of children (West Brant) are scoring in the lowest 10th percentile compared to 24% of children living in the Fairview - Green Brier neighbourhood. This is a range in neighbourhood scores for developmental difficulties of 18%. Generally speaking, neighbourhoods where there are 10% or less of children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile are considered thriving neighbourhoods for children.

There are five neighbourhoods (West Brant, East South Dumfries, Henderson, Mayfair, and Brier Park) that have less than 10% of children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile meaning that children living in these neighbourhoods are doing better than expected.

There are four Brant neighbourhoods (Terrace Hill, Banbury, West South Dumfries and Homedale- William) where 10.1% to 15% of children are scoring in the lowest 10th percentile. These neighbourhoods are considered average neighbourhoods where the majority of children are neither thriving nor are at-risk.

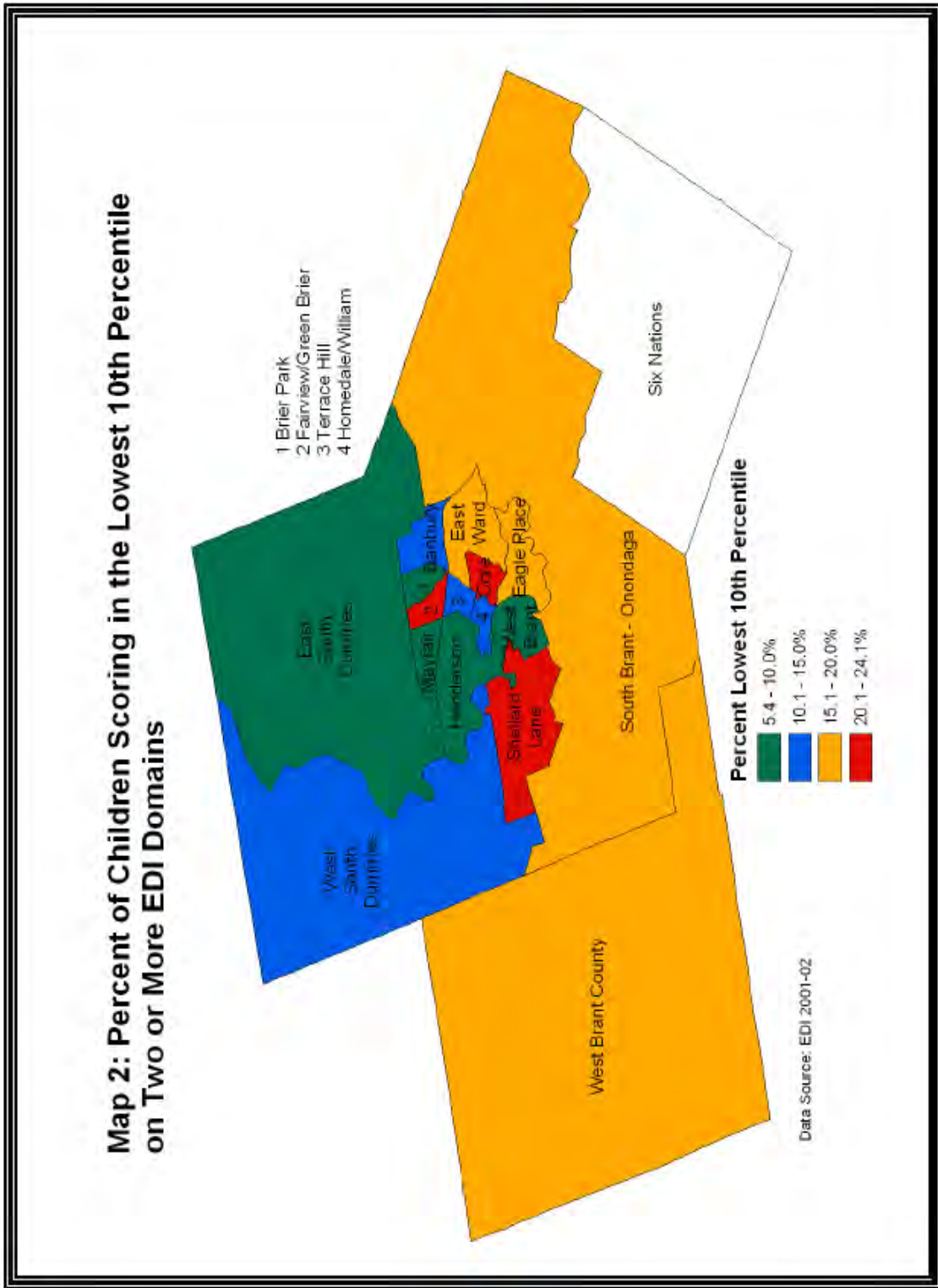
Neighbourhoods having between 15.1% and 20% of children in the lowest 10th percentile are considered caution neighbourhoods and may be in need of some additional interventions. In Brant, East Ward, West Brant County, Eagle Place, and South Brant-Onondaga are the caution neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods where more than 20% of children are scoring in the lowest 10th percentile are considered at-risk neighbourhoods and should be viewed as in need of both universal and targeted interventions. Brant neighbourhoods that meet these at-risk criteria are Fairview-Green Brier, Shellard Lane, and the Core.

In order to see the location of the Brant neighbourhoods together with the percent of children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile on two or more EDI domains, See Map 2.⁵

Map 2 - Children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile on two or more EDI domains,

⁵ Early Child Development in Brant – EDI Project Results, 2002



Source: Early Child Development in Brant – EDI Project Results, 2002

10.0 Best Start Child Care Expansion 2005- 2006

As stated, Brant County has been allocated a total of 85 new child care spaces for the year ending March 31, 2006. These new spaces need to be allocated in the community to primarily provide child care for children in the JK/SK age group (approximately 3.5 to 5 years of age). These spaces can be a mix of before/after school care (including summer holidays), center based or in-home (licensed).

Of the 85 newly allocated spaces a total of 36 were opened between April 1, 2005 and October 7, 2005. There will be no new full-day sites or spaces opened prior to March 31, 2006.

These spaces were located in:

Location	Neighbourhood	Number of Spaces
Academy of Montessori	West South Dumfries	16
Childs Paradise Too	Homedale/William	20
Total		36

None of these spaces were created in new schools funded by the Ministry of Education.

The remaining 49 spaces will be accounted for by the expansion of before and after school programs aimed at the JK/SK age groups. These programs will be a combination of new and newly licensed programs and will provide an additional 55 licensed spaces all located in existing schools. It is anticipated that these will open by March 31, 2006

Location	Neighbourhood	Number of Spaces
YMCA Before/After School Programs - Brier Park, Cederland, James Hillier, Our Lady of Providence, Resurrection, Russell Reid, St. Leo's Could be at any of these schools.	Bier Park Henderson Mayfair West Brant	15
Bellview	Eagle Place	20
St. Gabriel's	Shellard Lane	20
Total		55

Note: Bellview and St. Gabriel's both are Launch Pad sites.

The provision of new before/after school programs will provide parents with much needed assistance in providing care for their children. Both parents and child care providers have indicated that because of the various schedules for JK/SK it is difficult to provide or find appropriate before/after school care. An additional benefit of allocating additional child care spaces to before/after school programs is that much of the capital allocation will not be used and can thus be applied to expansion of full day child care programs and future hubs. Just over \$1.1 million will be available.

Future Hub Sites

In anticipation of the development of a Best Start hub a total of \$280,000 was allocated to construction costs at a new public elementary school in the Shellard Lane neighbourhood. As a new school, the GEDSB was mandated to provide space for child care space. There was however, no funding for Hub space. Brant/Brantford Best Start Network agreed to allocate funding for this purpose based on the identified need in this area as shown through a review of EDI data and in recognition of the rapid growth in the neighbourhood.

Discussions have been held regarding the allocation of similar funding to the BHNDCSB for a proposed new school in the Paris community (West South Dumfries). As with the new school in Brantford Child Care space will be part of the new construction, however, funding for the hub will need to come from Best Start funding. The key factor in examining this area for child care and a hub is the rapid growth occurring in the community. It has also been indicated that there will be a new public elementary school constructed in Paris and it too will have child care space available. No time lines have been given for this school.

A key element in the selection of any child care sites funded under Best Start will be the availability and suitability of space for eventual hubs. Hubs will require their own space, separate from child care space. As with child care spaces security of tenure will be a major factor in site selection. If schools are experiencing space pressures because of growth, changing enrollment or mandated class sizes, consideration will need to be given to construction of additional space for the hubs. While current Launch Pad and OEYC satellite sites would be a natural fit to become hubs there is concern that the space they occupy may not be available over the long-term. An official of the GEDSB stated that spaces for Launch Pads are reviewed on a yearly basis to determine if the space/classroom is needed by the school.

Determination of Neighbourhoods for Increased Child Care and Hubs

In determining the potential locations for the expansion of child care services for the JK/SK age group and eventual expansion to other ages a number of factors were considered. Perhaps the most significant was the EDI results that indicated where children in the community could potentially benefit the most. Other factors considered were:

- availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood and the impact of Best Start projects on this existing child care
- availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood
- availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)
- suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations
- interested child care provider
- areas of high population growth

The EDI projected identified neighbourhoods that were determined to be “at-risk neighbourhoods” and “caution neighbourhoods”. “At-risk neighbourhoods” require both “universal and targeted” interventions. “Caution neighbourhoods” are in need of “some additional” resources.

At-Risk Neighbourhoods

Core
Shellard Lane
Fairview Green Brier

Caution Neighbourhoods

East Ward
Eagle Place
West Brant County
South Brant-Onondaga

Additional consideration was given to areas that are experiencing rapid population growth. Often these areas are lacking in child care resources.

Rapid Growth Neighbourhoods

Paris
East South Dumfries (St. George)
Shellard Lane

Two other neighbourhoods were given special consideration because of special circumstances, namely the need for extensive renovations to current facilities.

Other Neighbourhoods

Mayfair
Branlyn

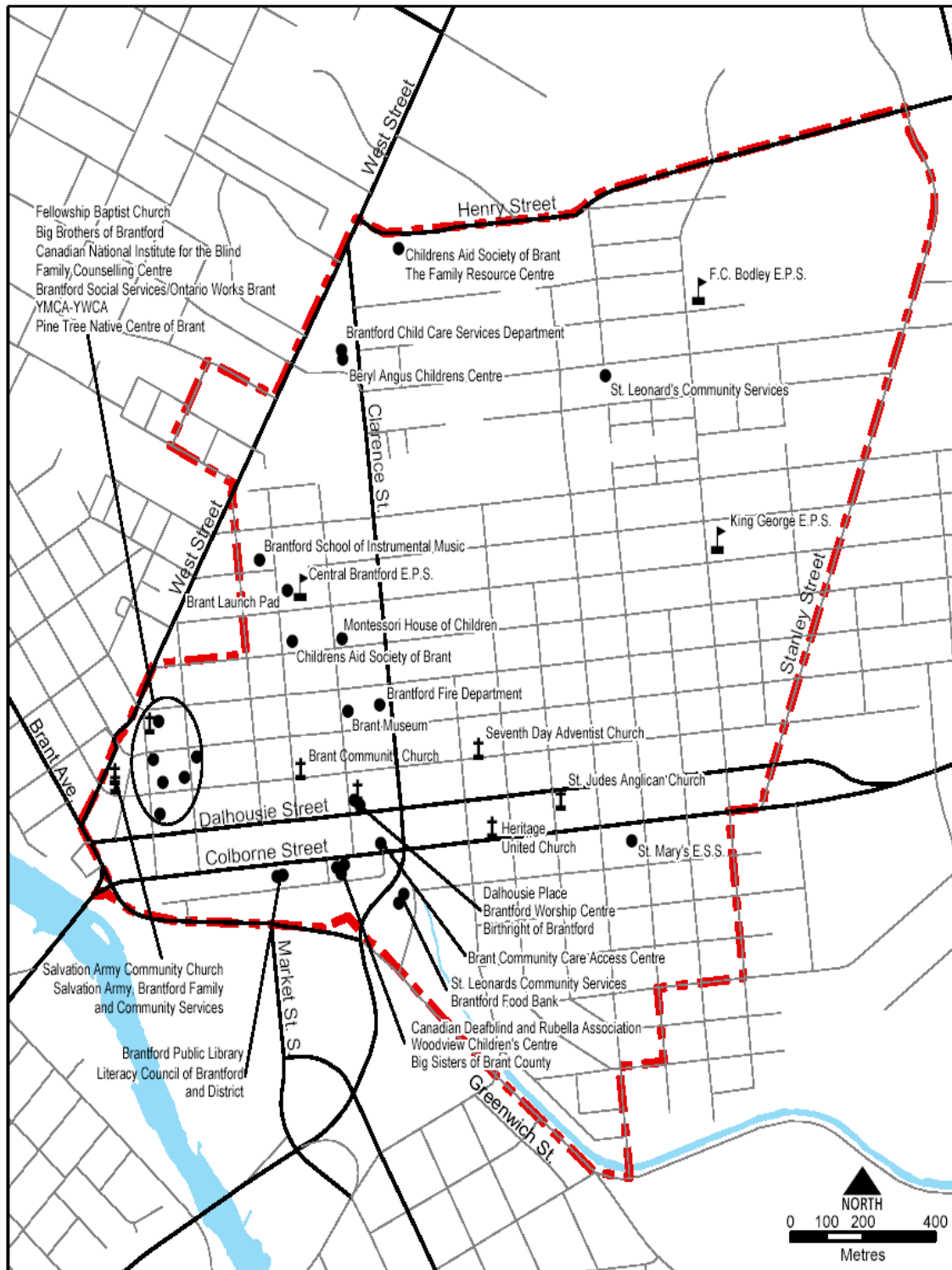
See Map 2 for the location of these neighbourhoods.

Schools have been identified as the most preferred location for Best Start program. In reviewing other potential sites, i.e. existing child care centres, it was learned that none of the existing child care facilities have room for expansion, either within the current facility or through additional space being added.

As stated, the 2005/06 Best Start child care allocation has been accounted for through new child care centres and through increased before and after school programs. The following neighbourhoods are under consideration for further child care expansion utilizing remaining 2005/06 capital funding. Selection criteria and processes are under development and will be discussed in Brant/Brantford Best Start Implementation Plan to be completed by December 31, 2005. Criteria will also be developed to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of child care spaces between the public and separate school boards as per the concerns of Board representatives.

At-Risk Neighbourhoods

Core	
Classification	At-Risk Neighbourhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	Beryl Angus Municipal Children's Centre Kidsworld Y Downtown
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	Approx. 4
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	Launch Pad/OEYC at Central Public School
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Central Public School St. Mary's Separate School F.C. Bodley (P) King George (P) Major Ballachey (P) Holy Cross (S) St. Jean de Brebeauf (S) French Immersion
Interested child care provider	Y has indicated that they would be interested in expanding in Core but can not do so in current location. Would consider move to new location.
Areas of high population growth	Some growth but much has been through growth of University.
Other factors	Area has a highly transient population. Area has been experiencing some growth both in terms of population and people working in downtown.



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

Shellard Lane	
Classification	At-Risk Neighbourhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	Y – Assumption College (S) Y – 30 Bell Lane
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	Approx. 2
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	St. Gabriel’s Elementary (S)
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Child Care site (40 spaces) is being developed in new public elementary school to be open fall of 2006 Best Start funding \$280,000 will be provided to provide room for eventual Hub
Interested child care provider	GEDSB will be tendering for child care provider. Some interest has been shown by existing provider to relocate an increase spaces
Areas of high population growth	Shellard Lane is the most rapidly growing area of Brantford. It is suggested the EDI scores (2002) are likely no longer valid.
Other factors	Neighbourhood will continue to grow for a number of years. Likely to continue to be demand for child care as housing is geared towards younger families.

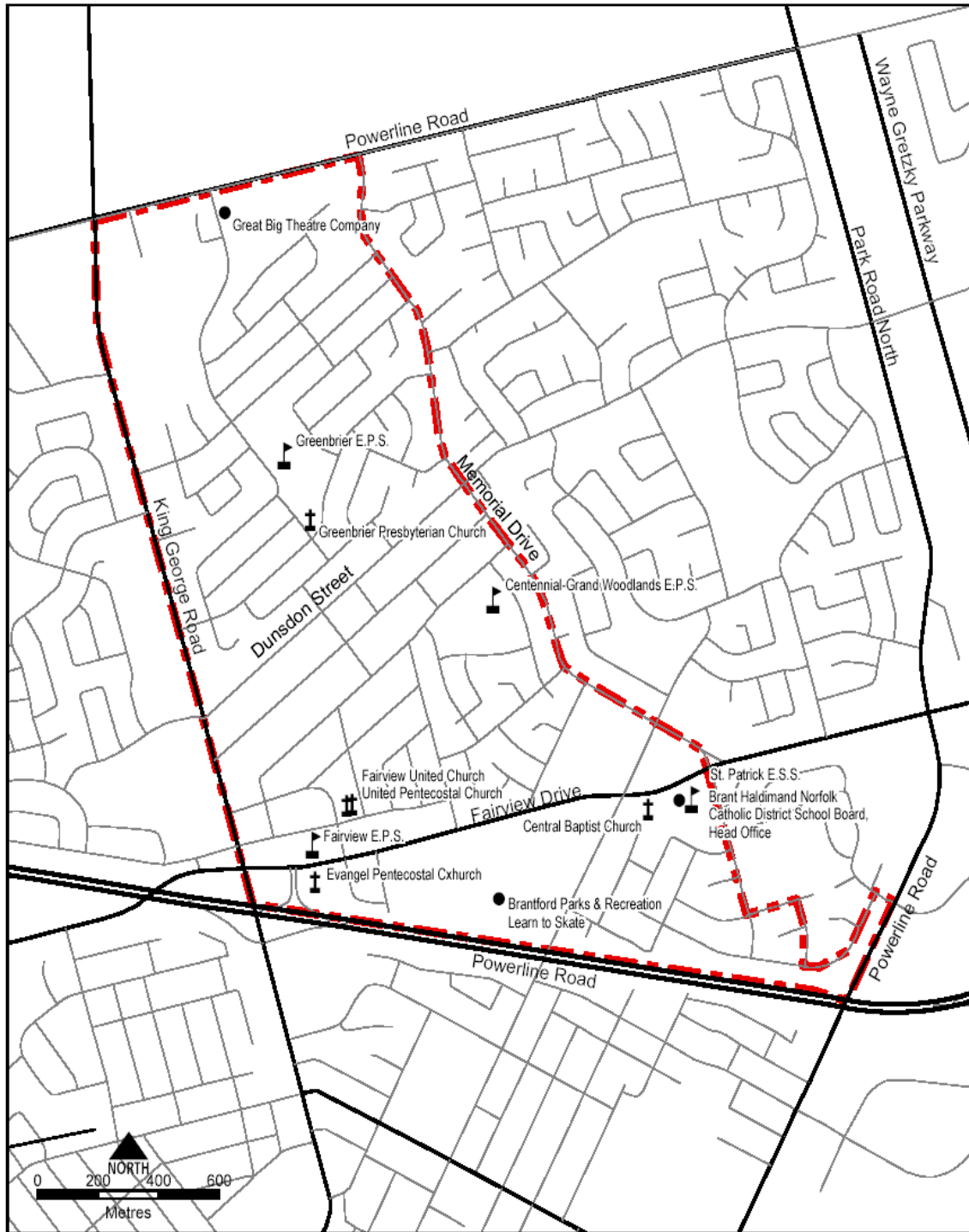
SHELLARD LANE



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

Fairview-Green Brier	
Classification	At-Risk Neighbourhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	None
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	1
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	Launch Pad – Centennial Grand Woodlands (P)
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Centennial-Grand Woodlands (P) Green Brier (P) St. Patrick’s (S) St. Leo’s (S) – on border
Interested child care provider	None at this time
Areas of high population growth	Area is an older stable area. One of “oldest” neighbourhoods in city with relatively few children.
Other factors	There is one large public housing complex with large concentration of children. There are large differences between the schools.

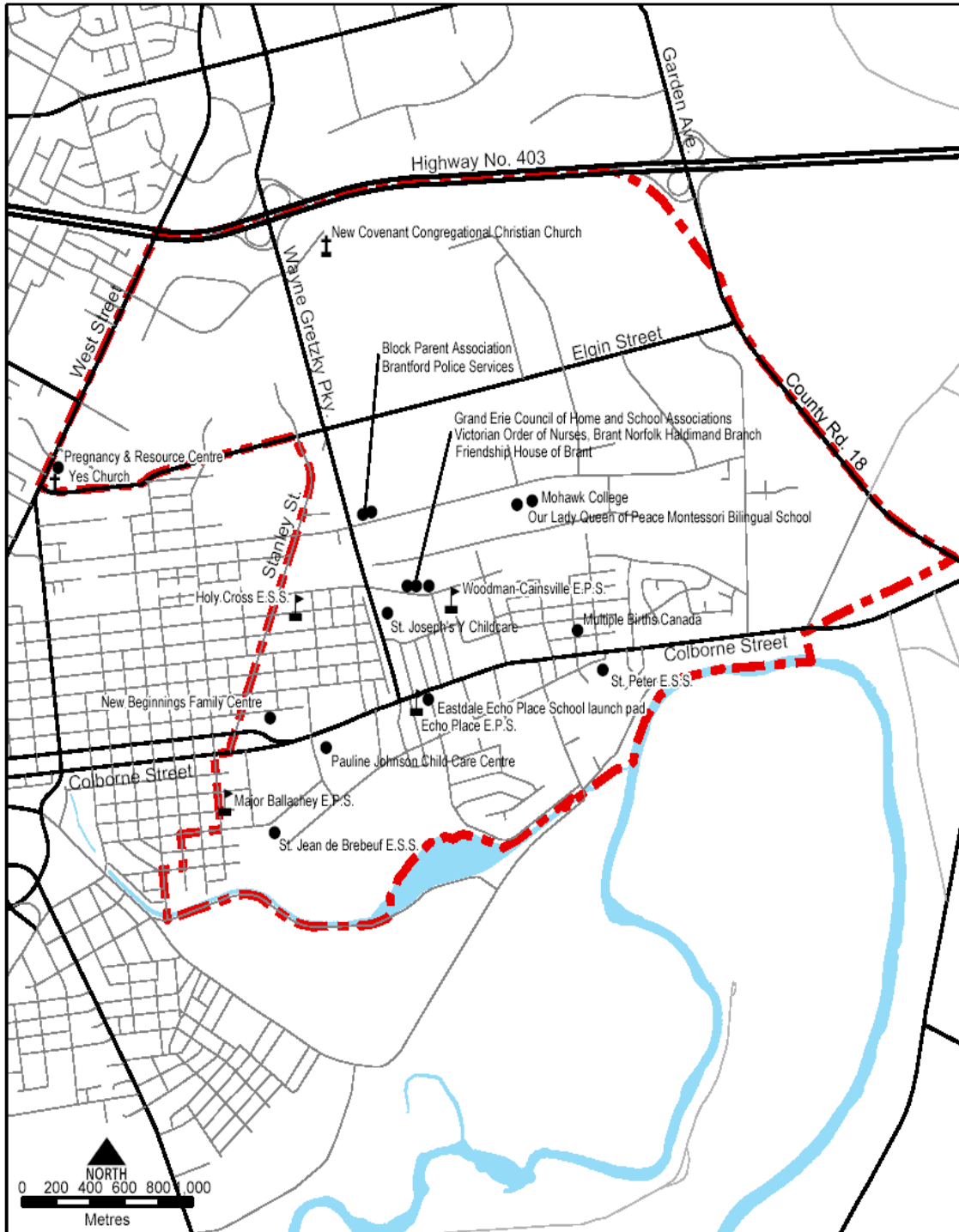
FAIRVIEW-GREENBRIER



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

Caution Neighbourhoods

East Ward	
Classification	Caution Neighbourhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	Pauline Johnson Child Care Centre (P) Our Lady Queen of Peace Montessori Bilingual Centre St. Joseph's Y Child Care Centre
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	Approx. 4
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	Major Ballachey School – Launch Pad East Dale – Echo Place School – Launch Pad
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	All existing child care sites are at maximum capacity. St. Mary's (S) – no space Holy Cross (S) Echo Place (P) St. Peter (S) Woodman-Cainsville (P) Major Ballachey (P) St. Jean deBrebeuf (S)
Interested child care provider	
Areas of high population growth	Older relatively stable area. Area borders on core.
Other factors	St. Joseph's Y Child Care is a new centre (less than one year old). Our Lady of Peace Montessori may be relocating



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

Eagle Place	
Classification	Caution Neighbourhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	None
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	1
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	Bellevue School (P) – Launch Pad
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Bellevue School (P) Princess Elizabeth (P) Our Lady of Fatima (S)
Interested child care provider	Interest has been expressed by Children’s Aid, operator of Launch Pad at Bellevue to develop a before/after school program.
Areas of high population growth	Although there is some new development it is relatively small. Area is an older area of Brantford.
Other factors	Identified in EDI as an area with lower income, more single parent families and a relatively high reliance on government income sources. There is no child care centre in the neighbourhood.

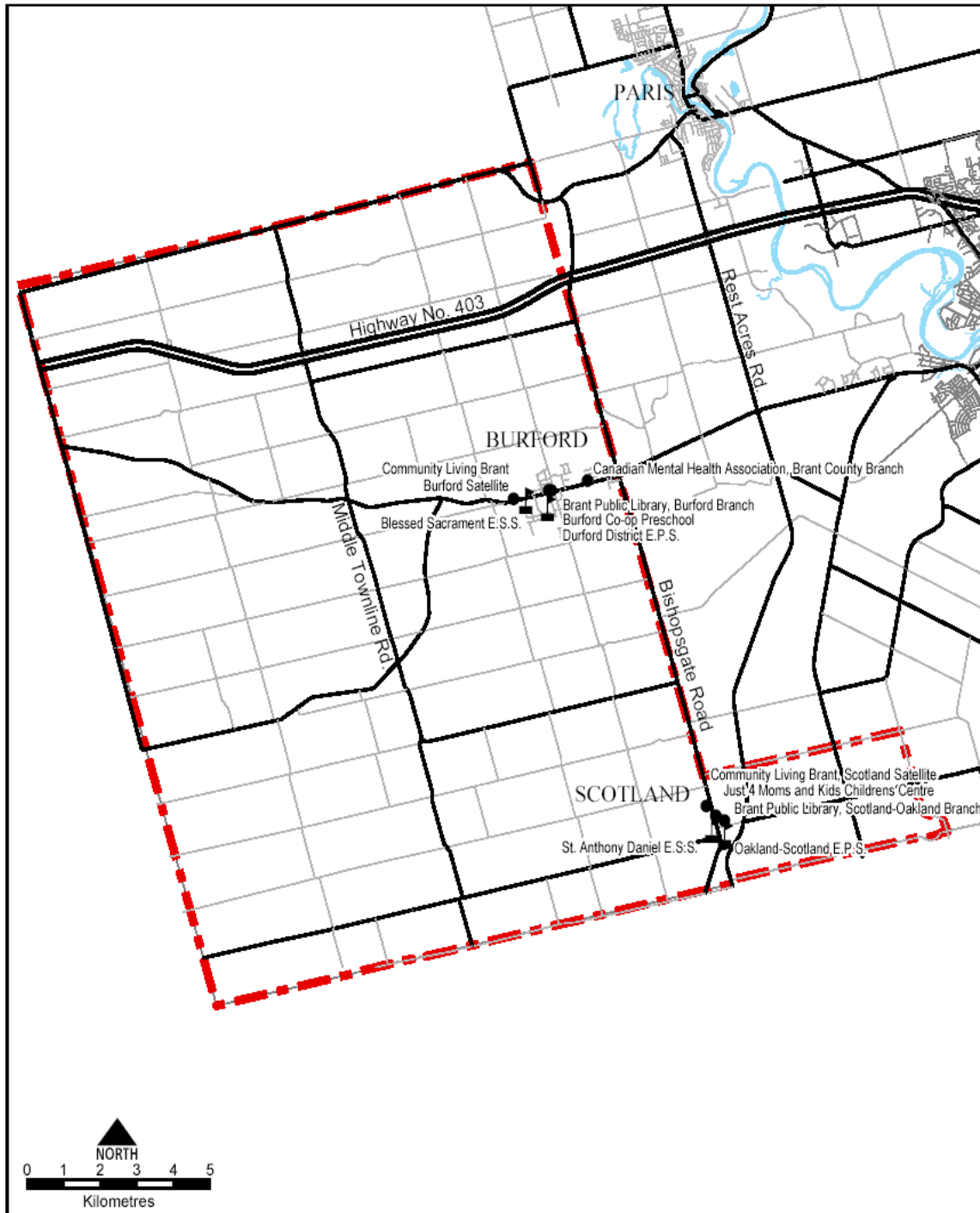
EAGLE PLACE



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

West Brant County – Includes Burford and Scotland	
Classification	Caution Neighbourhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	Burford Co-operative Preschool
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	None
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	OEYC Burford Satellite Burford District Elementary School OEYC Scotland Satellite St. Anthony Daniel School
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Blessed Sacrament – Burford St. Anthony Daniel – Scotland Burford District Elementary (P) Mount Pleasant Elementary (P) Oakland-Scotland Elementary (P)
Interested child care provider	Burford Co-operative Preschool has expressed interest in expanding license capacity and transferring sites.
Areas of high population growth	
Other factors	Burford Co-op is experiencing significant issues related to water quality at their current site. The Co-op is responsible for ensuring potable water is available. Burford District Elementary has expressed interest in having a child care locate on site in conjunction with the OEYC satellite located there.

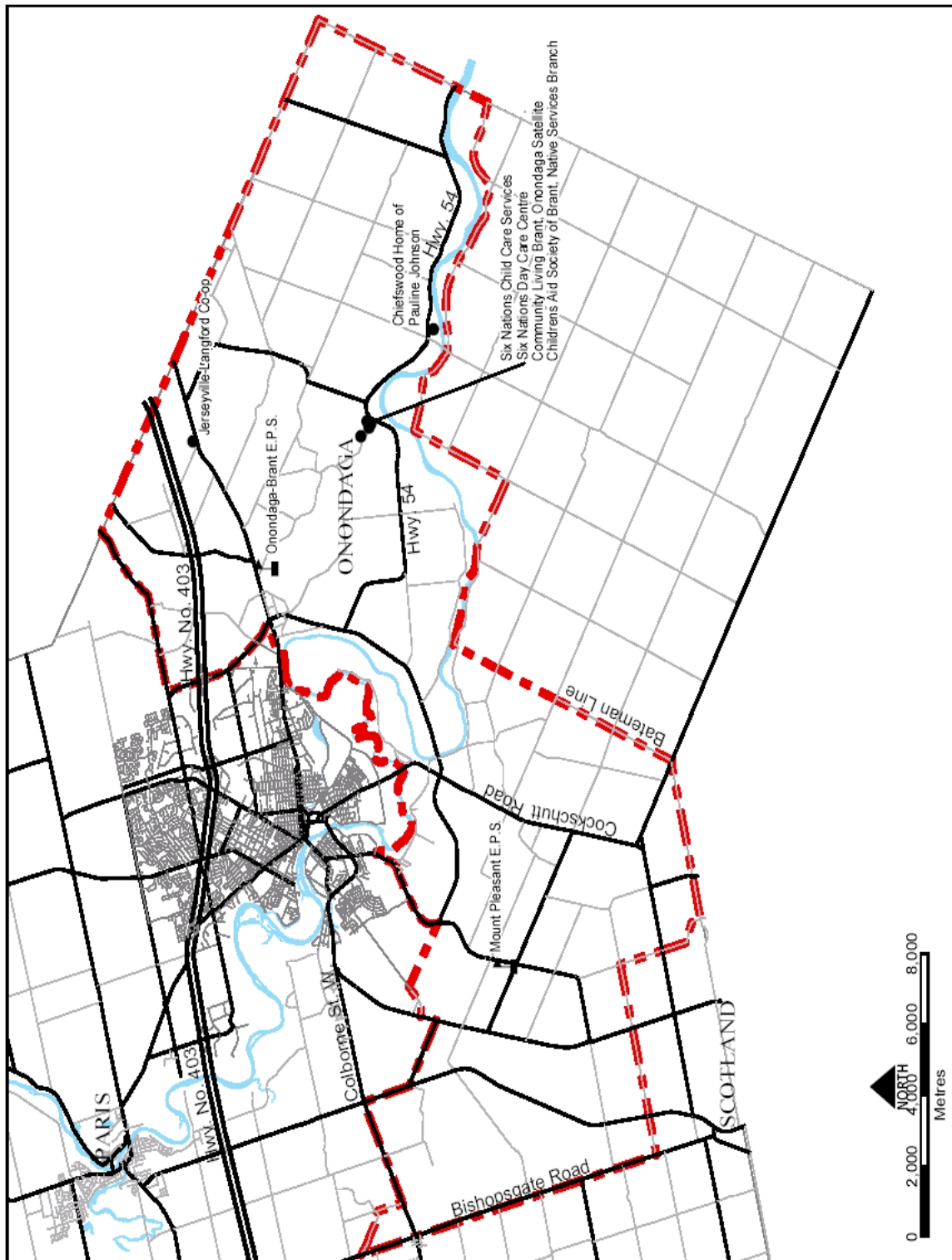
WEST BRANT COUNTY



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

South Brant-Onondaga	
Classification	Caution Neighbourhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	Jerseyville-Langford Co-Op
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	None
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	Onondaga OEYC Satellite Onondaga-Brant School (P)
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Onondaga-Brant School (P) Mount Pleasant (P)
Interested child care provider	None
Areas of high population growth	Mostly rural area with limited growth
Other factors	

SOUTH BRANT COUNTY

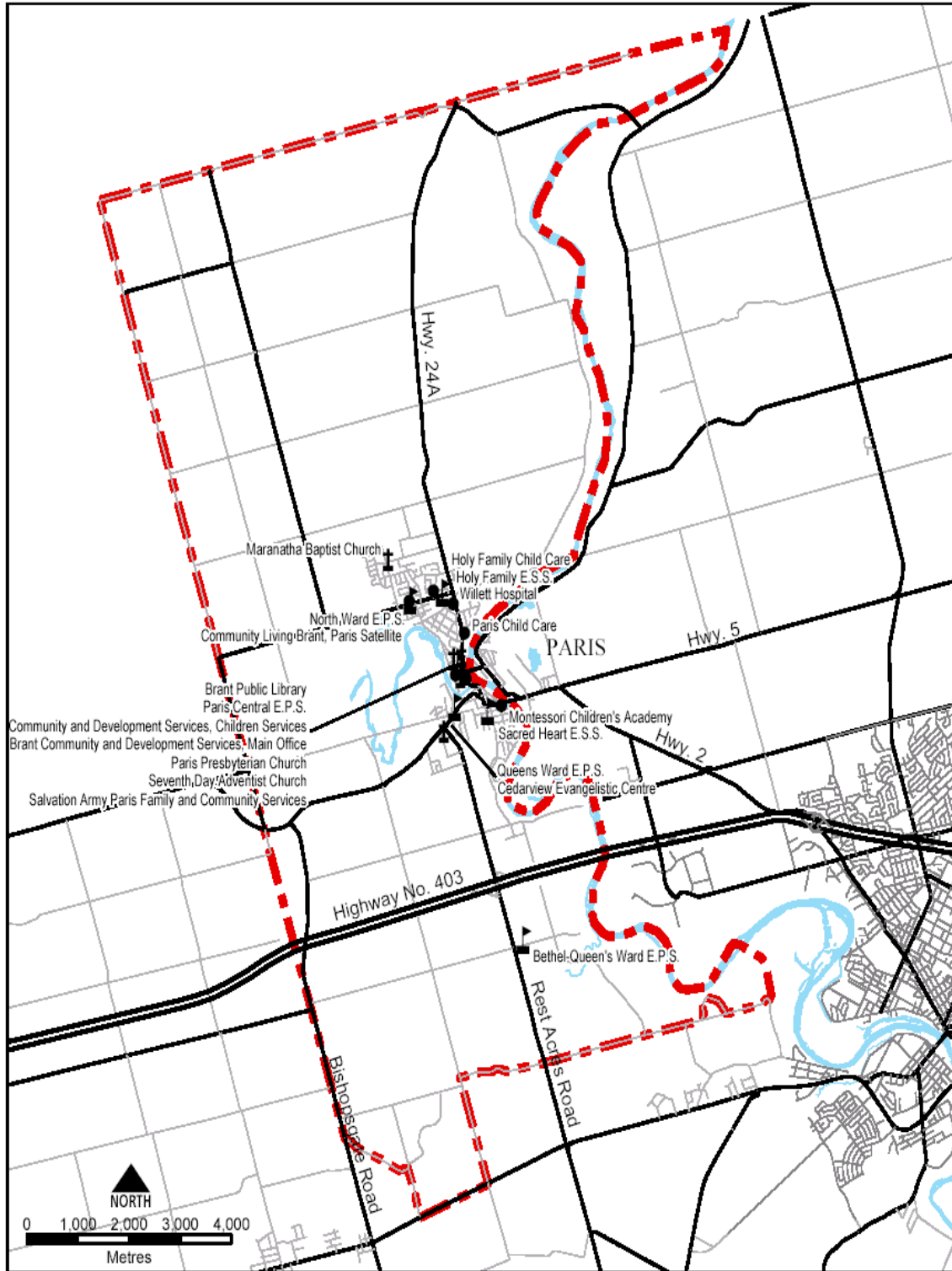


Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

Rapid Growth Neighbourhoods

Paris	
Classification	Rapid Growth Neighborhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	Montessori Children's Academy Paris Child Care Inc. Holy Family Child Care (located in Holy Family (S)) North Ward School Age Program (North Ward School (P)) Bethel Queens Ward (P) Queens Ward (P)
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	3 sites
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	Paris OEYC Satellite -Paris North Ward School (p)
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Holy Family Sacred Heart Paris North Ward School (P) Paris Central (P)
Interested child care provider	Not known at this time
Areas of high population growth	Southwest area of town is growing rapidly.
Other factors	Both Separate and Public boards have indicated that they will be building in near future. Sites will include child care centres. Boards are not funded to build space for hubs.

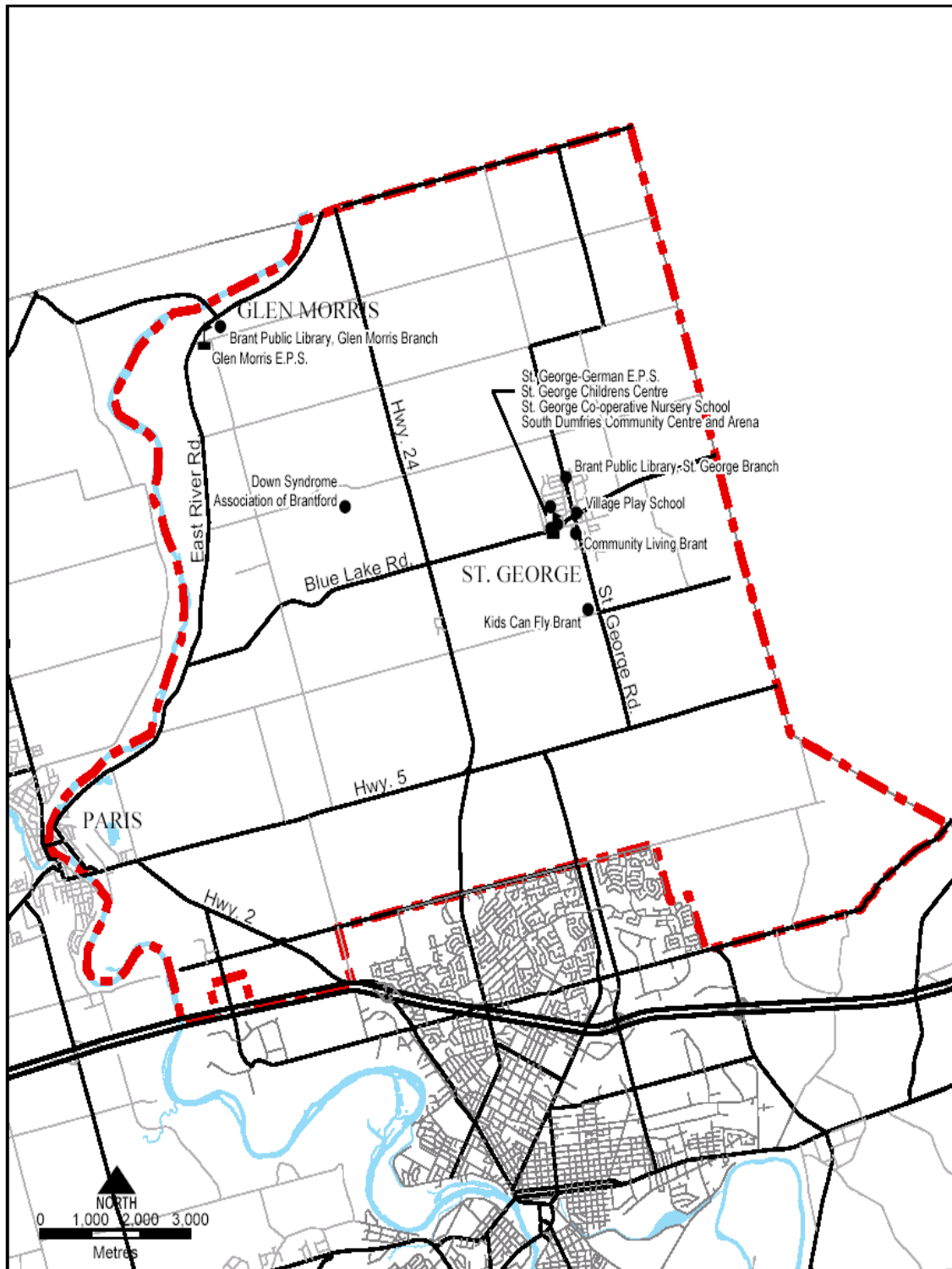
WEST SOUTH DUMFRIES



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

St. George	
Classification	Rapid Growth Neighborhood
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	St. George Children's Centre St. George Co-op Nursery School Village Playschool
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	None
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	St. George OEYC Satellite - St. George Lawn Bowling Club
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	St. George – German Elementary (P) Glen Morris (P)
Interested child care provider	Not known at this time
Areas of high population growth	Yes – growth in both the south and north ends of town.
Other factors	Only school in community is over capacity

EAST SOUTH DUMFRIES



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

Other Neighbourhoods

Mayfair	
Classification	Special Circumstance
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	Kidsworld Y Blueridge Cres.
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	Aprox. 3 sites
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	Russell Reid Elementary (P) Our Lady of Providence (S)
Interested child care provider	
Areas of high population growth	
Other factors	Current Kidsworld Y Blueridge site is in a converted house and is in need of major renovations. Y has expressed interest in moving to location within school.

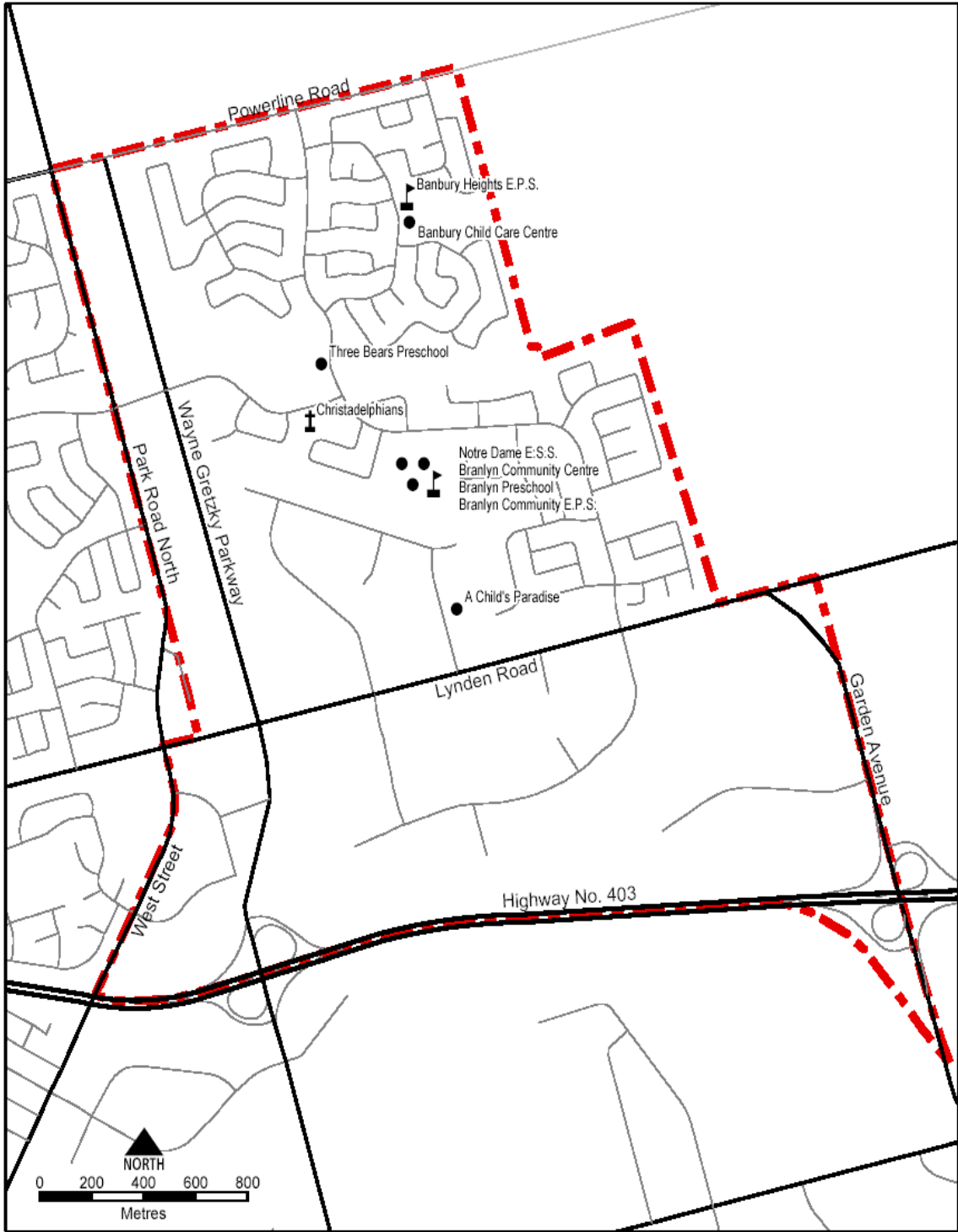
MAYFAIR



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

Branlyn	
Classification	Special Circumstance
Availability of centre based child care in neighbourhood	A Child's Paradise Banbury Child Care Centre Three Bears Preschool
Availability of in-home child care in neighbourhood	Aprox. 12 sites
Availability of parenting centre (Launch Pad/OEYC)	Branlyn-Notre Dame (P&S) Brantford
Suitable location either for construction or renovation with a preference for school locations	There is room available at the Branlyn-Notre Dame site.
Interested child care provider	One operator has expressed interest in moving to site at Branlyn-Notre Dame.
Areas of high population growth	
Other factors	

Map 13



Source: City of Brantford Planning Department, 2005

11.0 Conclusion

The establishment of the Brant/Brantford Best Start Network and the development of this transition plan are the first steps in the future expansion of child care in Brant and Brantford. As a community driven process Best Start will work to ensure that children have the best possible transition from child care to school and that resources will be available as close to home as possible.

The Brant/Brantford Best Start Network has worked quickly to develop a planning framework and committee structure that will ensure that all aspects of the Best Start initiative are carefully considered. By December 31, 2005 a multi-year implementation plan will be developed. It is anticipated that by March 31, 2006 over 85 new child care spaces, including before/after school and full-day spaces will be developed.

The development of the Transition Plan has focused on identifying areas in Brant where there is a need for increased child care spaces and other areas where there is a need to redevelop existing child care sites. Through the use of the Early Development Index (EDI), demographic statistics, a survey of parents and a review of existing child care services and early learning programs, a number of “neighbourhoods” have been identified for further investigation. Within each of these neighbourhoods schools will be examined for consideration as potential Best Start sites. Given the implication of Best Start to school enrollments these sites will need to reflect community needs and current school enrollments. This will ensure that Best Start will achieve maximum impact but will not alter current enrollment patterns. Next steps in the Best Start planning process will be to develop a clear and unbiased method to decide on Best Start sites. The Brant/Brantford Best Start Network has identified this as being a key factor to the success of Best Start in the community.

VOTING REPRESENTATIVE	AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER
Jackie Delong	Grand Erie District School Board
Trish Kings	Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk Catholic District School Board
Sharon Brooks	Kids Can Fly
Shelley McCarthy	Family Counselling Centre
Nancy Romanenko	Young Men/Women Christian Association
Diane Pick	Lansdowne Children's Centre
Flora Ennis	Woodview Children's Centre
Melodie Spencer	Ontario Early Years - Brant
Jennifer Munro	Data Analysis – Brant County Health Unit
Deanna Searle	Boys & Girls Club
Jane Angus	Contact Brant
Margaret Barr	Children's Aid Society of Brant
Tricia Hardy	Brant County Health Unit
Paula Thomlison	Library
Erin Quattrociocchi	Parent
Leanne Eamer (resigned)	Pinetree Native Centre
Jennifer Crandal	Ontario Works Housing
Heather Wilson	Montessori Children's Academy Inc.
Judith Friel (resigned)	Child Care Centre Owner/Operator A Child's Paradise & A Child's Paradise Too
Jerome Pepin	Ecole St. Marguerite Bourgeois -Principal
Paul Armstrong	Mohawk College Chair Health Sciences Human Service
<i>Luisa Pappert</i>	Wee Watch Private Home Daycare
Joanne Murray Ex-Officio	Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Sue Norden Ex-Officio	Child Care Services
Kim Romano Ex-Officio	Child Care Services

*Terms of Reference***Goal**

The Best Start Network of Brant through coordination, collaboration and cooperation will provide an array of supports for children, prenatal to six years of age, and their families to ensure that all children will have the opportunity to achieve the successful transition to school by the time they start Grade 1.

Mandate

To plan, implement and monitor Best Start in Brantford and Brant in a way that reflects community priorities and in accordance with the Implementation Planning Guidelines for Best Start Networks.

Principles

The Best Start Network will use the following guiding principles in the planning for Best Start. The Best Start plan will:

- Be based on identified community needs
- Ensure services are available, affordable and accessible for all
- Be child and parent oriented
- Respect diverse cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds
- Include supports re: participation for children with physical, developmental, language, learning or behavioural difficulties
- Work in partnership with families
- Meet the needs of parents at home, work or in school
- Protect the best interests of children
- Ensure that a broad range of input affecting children is incorporated
- Include cross Ministerial input and collaboration
- Ensure quality services.

Scope

The Best Start Network will create a comprehensive integrated system of services that supports families with children from prenatal through the transition into school. The Network is intended to create a forum for development and implementation of the Best Start Plan. The scope of the plan is intended to be as broad as possible for this age range, covering the spectrum of health, education, social and developmental supports and children's services.

Objective

The Best Start Network will respond to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services direction relating to planning, implementing and monitoring Best Start in Brantford and Brant. To achieve this objective the Best Start Network will:

- Provide advice and information to the local community, to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and to other provincial Ministries
- Promote the collaboration, coordination and integration of all early years services within Brant County including the timely and accurate sharing of information and documents
- Facilitate the development of coalitions, partnerships and alliances across all sectors within the community
- Facilitate a coordinated approach to service system planning including the measurement of community capacity and the identification of service gaps
- Review and make recommendations with respect to Best Start proposals ensuring that such recommendations are reflective of community priorities and needs and are made in accordance with conflict of interest guidelines.

Key Activities of Network

- I. Build Best Start networks based on existing planning bodies. The network will:
 - Bring together community partners
 - Provide an overview of Best Start
 - Develop terms of reference
 - Develop community strengths and priorities
 - Identify mechanisms to build partnerships with parents
 - Establish clear accountability
 - Describe the Best Start Network
 - Develop a comprehensive communication plan.
- II. A transition plan will be developed to increase licensed child care spaces and subsidies in 2005-06 with priority for children in JK and SK and gradual expansion of licensed child care and subsidies for children aged 0-4 years. The plan will:
 - Assess the need for child care during non-school hours for children in JK and SK, and for children aged 0-4
 - Identify the community's current capacity to provide child care for children in JK and SK and for children aged 0-4
 - Identify the programs/spaces to receive subsidies, in order of priority
 - Develop a child care infrastructure plan for renovations/new spaces.
- III. Develop a Phase 1 Integrated Implementation Plan. The plan will:
 - Describe the community's needs for early learning and care services
 - Develop a plan to implement early learning and care hubs

- Develop a plan to implement child care during non-school hours with priority for children in JK and SK and gradual expansion of child care for children 0 to 4 for 2006-07 onwards
- Integrate plans to enhance key early identification and intervention programs
- Set out longer term vision to implement Best Start
- Identify any challenges to implementing Best Start and strategies to overcome them.

IV. Include mechanisms to build strong effective partnerships with parents, explore options that may include:

- Allocating a proportion of network memberships to parents
- Contacting School Councils at the local schools and other parent groups to find parents interested in serving on the network
- Facilitating the inclusion of francophone, and aboriginal populations or other ethno cultural communities as appropriate
- Recruiting parents of children with special needs
- Holding public meetings at the local school or community centre to talk about Best Start and the Network
- Placing ads in local papers or posters in places where parents go with their children
- Offering training and orientation for parents who would like to participate but do not have experience serving on planning committees
- Scheduling meetings at times convenient for parents
- Reimbursing parents for the cost of child care and transportation so they can attend meetings
- Finding innovative ways for parents in rural areas to participate (e.g., video conferencing)
- Finding ways to overcome language barriers and communicate effectively with parents (e.g., avoid jargon)

Timelines

The Best Start Network will endeavor to adhere to all Ministry timelines

Accountabilities

The Brant Best Start Networks will be accountable to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and to the community for planning and monitoring the implementation of Best Start in Brant. Specifically, as a collective, all members of the Network will share accountability in the development and monitoring of the Phase 1 Integrated Implementation Plan. This will be accomplished by promoting collaboration, coordination and integration amongst community partners to ensure that the objectives and principles of Best Start and the Network are met.

Agencies who are identified as having specific accountability within the Phase 1 Integrated Implementation Plan will ensure that appropriate approval from their governing body has been obtained. The agencies that have been specifically identified will be accountable for making sure that they fulfill their commitments identified in the Best Start Plan.

Programs and/or agencies funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will reflect the Best Start Phase 1 Integrated Implementation Plan components relative to their agency in their service contracts. These members of the Brant Best Start Network will bring their individual service plans/contracts to the local network table where they will be shared and integrated into the Phase I Integrated Implementation Plan. During that process they will also confirm their role in Best Start (e.g. providing some services through Best Start hubs, accepting and making referrals to other Best Start services). Members will include their role collaborating the Best Start Plan in their individual Agency service Plan

Best Start Networks

For the purpose of accountability the network will identify:

- The steps they will take to integrate planning for Best Start Services and develop the Phase 1 integrated implementation Plan
- The mechanisms they will use to ensure accountability for participating in Best Start and integrating services (e.g., service agreements, memorandums of understanding)
- The mechanisms they will use to monitor implementation of Best Start
- The mechanisms they will use to resolve any conflict between members' accountability to their program funders and their accountability to the Best Start network
- The mechanisms for how the networks will work with the CMSM as they develop the transition plan.

The Best Start Network will have an internal accountability mechanism in the form of a self-assessment that the Network will conduct annually to assess:

- Achievement of objectives and outcomes
- Membership and participation of all members.

The terms of reference will be reviewed by a sub-committee annually.

Roles and Responsibilities

All members of the Best Start Network will participate in planning and implementing Best Start. They will provide advice on the best ways to organize and integrate services. They will be informed about the services available and the importance of early learning and care. Members will provide appropriate representation of the stakeholders that they represent. It will be critical that participants are able to make decisions on behalf of the organization and/or sector they represent. Members must keep a global perspective when making decisions on what is best for the community. Members must be able and willing to undertake active participation in committee and/or task force work. In order to ensure that objectives are met in a timely manner the Network team will ensure appropriate preparation and completion of assigned tasks. In addition to scheduled meetings, the Network team members should expect to spend time reviewing information in preparation for each meeting.

Membership/Voting

- **MEMBERS:** Members will reside or work in Brant County, and will include parent representatives, stakeholder representatives and senior representatives of agencies providing early years services to children and families with children aged prenatal to 6.
- **PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Up to three (3) parent representatives may be members of the Network. Parent representatives will have the following qualifications:
 - be well informed of the early years services available to families and the importance of early learning and care;
 - be able to provide advice on the best way to organize and integrate services;
 - be willing to speak from a broad community perspective; and not be employees of any member agencies.
- **VOTING REPRESENTATIVES:** Stakeholder groups or agencies must select one designated voting member who will be their representative. The designated voting member of an agency must be a senior staff at the agency and have the ability to make decisions and commitments on behalf of the organization.
 - In the event that the designated voting member is unable to attend a meeting, that individual may assign an alternate to attend the meeting and vote on their behalf. It is the responsibility of the designated voting member to update the alternate to ensure that discussion progresses and is not delayed as a result of the alternate member's participation in the meeting.
- **FUNDERS:** Funders shall participate on the Network in an ex-officio capacity and will participate in all discussions and decision-making, but will not have voting privileges.
- **OTHER AGENCY STAFF, CONSUMERS AND/OR INTERESTED PARTIES:** Individuals or agencies may approach the Chair to participate on the Network as an interested party. They may request to receive minutes and may attend meetings as guests and are not entitled to vote on decisions.

Qualification and Selection of Members

The Best Start Network will recruit members (on the basis of identified sectors/agencies) and invite their participation.

Length of Term of Appointments

The terms of the Best Start Network requires a three year commitment from its key stakeholders. Parents will be invited to participate for three years but it is realized that this commitment may not possible.

Network Procedures and Operations

Executive Responsibilities

Chair

The Chair of the Best Start Network will be selected by the Network Membership for a two year term with the option to serve an additional term not exceeding a total of three consecutive years. The Chair will:

- Chair all Best Start Network meetings
- Prepare meeting agendas
- Ensure the Terms of Reference and other Best Start Network documents are up-to-date, and adhered to
- Oversee the orientation of new members as required
- Ensure a liaison to BEYSAT, CCYDS and CCAC
- Provide Leadership to the executive to ensure participation from all members.

Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair of the Best Start Network will be selected by the membership for a two-year term with the option to serve an additional term not exceeding a total of three consecutive years. The Vice-Chair will:

- Serve as the Chair in the absence of the Chair
- Assist the Chair in monitoring discussions ensuring that all have equal opportunity to speak
- Assist the Chair in the preparation of meeting agendas as required
- Assist the Chair in the orientation of new members as required.

Secretary/Recorder

The Secretary/Recorder of the Best Start Network will be selected by the membership for a one-year term with the option to serve an additional term not exceeding a total of two consecutive years. Members may delegate Secretarial responsibilities.

The Secretary will ensure that:

- Meeting agendas are circulated to all members of Best Start Network
- Minutes of the Best Start Network are recorded and circulated
- Meeting attendance is monitored
- All Best Start Network correspondence and records are maintained.

Other Executive positions may be established as deemed necessary.

Minutes and Agendas

Minutes of all Best Start Network meetings will be distributed within five working days to Network members with other relevant documentation attached. The minutes will be Action Oriented Minutes with a section referring to tasks as assigned if deemed necessary.

Best Start Network members may refer items to the agenda by contacting the Chair at least two weeks in advance of the next scheduled meeting. All meeting agendas will be forwarded to the membership one week in advance of the upcoming meeting, attached with this notice will be the second distribution of the minutes.

Meetings

The Best Start Network will determine the schedule of dates, times and locations of meetings as required.

Meetings will not be called to order until a quorum is present. Meeting quorums shall be defined as 50% plus one of the Best Start Network members.

Media Spokesperson

A Media plan will be developed by the Network to ensure effective communication of the Best Start Network.

Conflict of Interest

All members of the Best Start Network will be encouraged to participate fully in the activities of the Best Start Network. Conflict of interest refers to a situation where a member of the Best Start Network speaks in favour of or recommends a course of action which may financially benefit them personally or the organization/agency with which they are associated. Where the advice of the Best Start Network is sought on funding or financial matters (e.g. the review and recommendation of Best Start Network proposals), the onus of responsibility will rest with each individual member to determine whether or not they are in a conflict of interest. In such instances, the member will clarify their concerns with the Chair who will determine if the conflict of interest warrants precluding the member's further participation or debate of that portion of the meeting.

Confidentiality

All meetings of the Best Start Network will be open to members of the general public and media. The Best Start Network does, however, reserve the right to hold in-camera sessions should the topic of discussion pertain to a property matter, information that may be the subject of a judicial or quasi-judicial hearing or inquiry, or the information pertains to a readily identifiable individual or group of individuals.

Absences

Best Start Network members are asked to contact the Secretary if they are unable to attend a meeting. If a member resigns, the vacancy will be filled at the discretion of the Best Start Network.

Use of Technology

The Best Start Network reserves the right to use technology, where possible and practical, to conduct its business (e.g. the electronic transfer of meeting agendas and minutes, teleconferencing, etc.).

Remuneration

Best Start Network members will serve without remuneration from the Best Start Network.

Committees, Task Forces and/or Working Groups

The Best Start Network will establish committees, task forces and/or working groups as deemed necessary. Such groups will be chaired by a member of the Best Start Network and will consist of Best Start Network members and/or other community members as is relevant to the task. Each committee, task force or working group will be accountable to the Best Start Network through their work plans.

All reasonable efforts shall be made to remove barriers for Parental Participation (i.e.) transportation, time of meetings

Linkages

The Best Start Network will maintain linkages with other relevant planning bodies in the community. The nature and extent of these linkages may be altered from time to time as necessary and appropriate.

Decision-Making Process and Dispute Resolution

Members will work toward a consensus model for decision-making. If this is not possible, a simple majority vote will be held. A motion will be considered 'carried' when two thirds the voting representatives in attendance are in favour of the motion.

Signatures to the Terms of Reference

The terms of reference must be signed by all members or at a minimum, representatives of the CMSM/DSSAB, MCYS Regional Office, Ministry of Education District Office, relevant District School Boards and Public Health. Other parties to be included as deemed appropriate at the local level.

The Terms of Reference of the Best Start Network will be reviewed annually or as needed.

Year (July 1)	0-4	5-9	10-14	Total Population
2004	7,370	8,920	9,420	132,520
2005	7,240	8,780	9,460	133,780
2006	7,180	8,610	9,490	135,050
2007	7,260	8,350	9,420	136,330
2008	7,390	8,180	9,310	137,610
2009	7,550	7,980	9,180	138,900
2010	7,670	7,830	9,040	140,210
2011	7,800	7,760	8,850	141,530
2012	7,930	7,820	8,600	142,860
2013	8,060	7,940	8,430	144,190
2014	8,170	8,090	8,220	145,530
2015	8,270	8,210	8,070	146,860
2016	8,370	8,340	8,000	148,200
2017	8,450	8,470	8,050	149,530
2018	8,520	8,590	8,160	150,850
2019	8,580	8,700	8,300	152,170
2020	8,630	8,800	8,410	153,470

Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance

Appendix D
Licensed Child Care Programs

PROGRAM	Fee Subsidy	Wage Subsidy	For-Profit	Non-Profit	Co-located in School
<i>BRANTFORD</i>					
A Child's Paradise	Yes	Yes	Yes		
A Child's Paradise Too	Yes	Yes	Yes		
A Child's Place Preschool	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Banbury Child Care Centre	Yes	Yes		Yes	YES - Public
Beryl Angus Municipal Children's Centre	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Boy's & Girl's Club After School Program	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Grandview Child Care Centre	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes - Public
Just 4 Moms and Kids Co-op	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Kiddy Korner Daycare	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Kidsworld Y Blueridge	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Kidsworld Y Downtown	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Noah's Ark Preschool	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Our Lady Queen of Peace Montessori Bilingual Centre	Yes	No		Yes	
Pauline Johnson Child Care Centre	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes - Public
St. Joseph's Y Child care Centre	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Three Bears Preschool	Yes	Yes		Yes	
West End Y Day Care	Yes	Yes		Yes	
<i>BURFORD</i>					
Burford Co-operative Preschool	Yes	Yes			
<i>JERSEYVILLE</i>					
Jerseyville-Langford co-op Nursery School	Yes	No		Yes	
<i>PARIS</i>					
Paris Child Care	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Holy Family Child Care	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes - Separate
Montessori Children's Academy Inc.	No	No	Yes		
<i>ST. GEORGE</i>					
St. George Children's Centre	Yes	Yes		Yes	
St. George Co-op Nursery School	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Village Playschool	Yes	No	Yes		
<i>OTHER</i>					
City of Brantford – Private Home Day Care					
Wee-Watch Private Home Day Care					

Source: City of Brantford Child Care Services Division, November 2003

Note: Several of the licenses allow for flexibility within age groupings on the condition that appropriate staffing levels are in place.

Appendix E
Ontario Early Year's Site

OEYC Centre
West Street, Brantford

Burford Satellite
Burford District Elementary School

OEYC Launch Pad
Central School
Brantford

Onondaga Satellite
Onondaga-Brant School

Paris Satellite
Paris North Ward School

Scotland Satellite
St. Anthony Daniel School

St. George Satellite
St. George Lawn Bowling Club

OEYC Launch Pad
Central School, Brantford

Bellview School
Brantford

Major Ballachey School
Brantford

Branlyn-Notre Dame
Brantford

East Dale – Echo Place School
Brantford

St. Gabriel's School
Brantford

Centennial Grandwoodlands
Brantford