

**OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR WEINBERG AND OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM  
COUNCILLOR MARIO PIAMONTE – NOVEMBER, 24, 2009**

Reference: Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Community Daycare in Anmore

Dear Colleagues,

It is very clear to me that each and every member of this Council recognizes the need for quality daycare for the children in this community. It is also very clear to me that with a population of fewer than 2,000 people, and a very limited tax base, we must be sure that the majority of the people in the community we serve are in agreement with our actions and that those actions do not put our community at financial risk.

What is very unclear to me is what the majority of our constituents want relative to this topic. The community feedback has been at best befuddling. The voters overwhelmingly turned down, by a two to one margin, the referendum request to approve financing for a community centre/daycare. Immediately following the November 2008 election/referendum, at a meeting with the new Council, the Daycare Committee and the Community Center Building Committee, it was generally agreed that the wording of the referendum question was poor and the results did not indicate whether or not Anmore residents, in fact, wanted a Daycare, Community Center, both or neither.

There have also been many thoughtful letters to Mayor and Council from Anmore voters both for and against immediately proceeding with the building of a daycare centre

To add to my confusion about where the voters stand on this issue, at the first Public Hearing on the re-zoning of lots 15 and 16 on Ravenswood, a large majority seemed to oppose the rezoning for a daycare, so much so that all of Council voted to reject the re-zoning and to hold a Town Hall meeting to get more public input. Due to a technicality, this vote was overturned and the process was restarted. This time, at both the Town Hall Meeting and the Public Hearing about the re-zoning of lots 15 and 16, there seemed to be very strong and emotional support in favour of rezoning the land to build a daycare centre.

I worry about the potential financial repercussions if Council fails in its fiduciary responsibility for due diligence, especially with the recent demise of the Anmore Renewable Energy Foundation and the prompt resignation of the three Anmore Council trustees. From my perspective, setting up terms of reference for a Daycare Working Group as shown in the Agenda for the November 24, 2009 *“to advise and assist Council by developing a business plan and building plan for a proposed Anmore Non-profit Daycare facility”* is at best premature.

With Mayor Weinberg’s regrettable resignation, effective December 31, 2009, I think that with the Village being cash-strapped, the Council has the perfect opportunity to get a valid assessment of where the community stands on this issue. Since the Village will likely have a by-election sometime in late March, a properly designed referendum question on this topic could be piggybacked on the existing costs of holding this by-election. This approach would allow all voters a chance to clearly state their preferences and also give the new Mayor and Council the freedom to proceed as they see appropriate.

I hope this proposed solution is helpful and look forward to our further discussion.

Sincerely,  
Councillor Mario Piamonte