Glenelm Children's Centre Inc.
200 Glenwood Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R2L 1J9

June 5, 2006

Standing Policy Committee -
Protection and Community Services
510 Main Street,
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 1B9
Attention: Wayne Gulenchyn, Committee Clerk

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

Re: Community Incentive Grant – Glenelm Children's Centre Inc.
Minute 89, EKT CC, 2006 02 13 Report 2006 01 26 PR-2.6(33)

Thank you for deferring consideration of our application to the meeting of June 12, 2006 and allowing us to provide additional information about our grant application.

I understand that the Standing Committee's concern relates to the granting criteria and whether our application satisfies the criteria of creating recreational opportunities, community-oriented project and accessibility.

In considering our application, we ask that the Committee keep in mind the Glenelm context - meaning the particular characteristics, challenges and needs of this neighbourhood. Approximately ½ of Glenelm residents live below Statistics Canada's low-income cut off. Most of our residents expend considerable effort on meeting basic needs and while they support this project, they do not have the resources, in terms of time, money or energy, to build it. Glenelm has fewer services and recreational facilities compared to more affluent areas and we need more recreational opportunities, such as a pre-school play structure to replace the one removed from Elmwood Park several years ago. However, we have basic infrastructure needs that must be met before we can begin to build those facilities and opportunities.

Glenelm needs more support and flexibility than a more affluent community and we ask that the Committee take a creative and generous approach to the concepts of recreation and community well being and develop a long-term view of the project– it is the first step towards the infrastructure needed to support community activities.

With this frame of reference, I submit that our application does meet the granting criteria in the following ways.

<u>Criteria #1</u>: Organization is a non-profit community organization offering sport or recreation services or is a non-profit community organization that contributes to the health and well being of the community through the development of a sport or recreation capital project that is accessible to the community.

Non-profit organization

As stated in our application materials, the Centre is a non-profit community organization, incorporated in December 2004 with charitable registration granted in April 2005. We are a grass roots organization – our board of directors and volunteers are all residents (or related to residents!) in the Glenelm community and parents of Glenelm School students, past, present and future.

Our community partners include the congregation of Gordon-King Memorial United Church (GKMUC), the principal and staff of Glenelm School and the Glenelm School Parent Advisory Council (GSPAC).

Health and Well-being of the Community

As stated in our application, the need for quality, affordable and flexible child care is particularly acute in Glenelm which has no child care centre, one licenced family child care home (offering 7 spaces) and a few unlicenced child care homes.

A significant number of children in the Elmwood area (of which Glenelm is a part) are vulnerable in the areas of social competency, emotional maturity and language and cognitive development and an effective early childhood education centre would help to improve outcomes for these children.

Recreational Capital Project

The Gage Canadian Dictionary defines recreation as *a refreshing of the body and spirit after working, through play or amusement.* Early childhood education centres are an essential part of the wage economy but they are not just places for children to stay safe while their parents or guardians work or attend school. They are in and of themselves, places where quality early learning experiences involving recreation, sport and other activities support development in social competency, emotional maturity and language and cognitive development as well as physical health and well being and communication skills and general knowledge.

This capital project is required to meet facility requirements of Winnipeg Planning, Property & Development and Manitoba Family Services and Housing but it is a tremendous opportunity to create the infrastructure needed to support community and recreational activities. The largest component of our project (electrical, heating, ventilation system upgrades and fire alarms) will benefit the entire facility therefore a happy by-product of the Centre is further development GKMUC as a community facility.

Accessible to the Community

Glenelm is a compact, friendly neighbourhood with many long-term residents. GKMUC and Glenelm School are located in close proximity to each other and, together, form the psychological centre of the neighbourhood. These historic buildings are community landmarks and gathering places and many, regardless of their religious affiliation or belief, cherish GKMUC as a community centre. Residents of the community rely on GKMUC for

- Sparks and Brownies
- Back to Basics (Alcoholics Anonymous)
- Glenelm School Lunch Program (Fall 2006)
- Songwriter's Ink (community song writing group)
- Glenelm Children's Centre (meetings and fundraisers)
- Glenelm School, Winter Holiday Concert
- Elmwood High School, Graduation Ceremony
- Community Group fundraisers (Canadian Cancer Society)

GKMUC welcomes the community to numerous secular activities, often at no charge, including a Halloween party, Fall Supper, Music Theme Nights and Pancake Breakfasts. As indicated on their website (http://www.gkmuc.com), they make their facility available for events in the community and it is accessible to those with impaired mobility and hearing.

The upgrading required for the Centre will create spin off opportunities for recreational activities such as dance and fitness classes, music groups and seniors groups to name a few. The Centre intends to install a play structure suitable for pre-school age children and which is open to the community. *In the context of the Glenelm neighbourhood,* this grant will serve as a catalyst for expanded and improved recreational opportunities for the community.

<u>Criteria #2:</u> The project must provide long-term benefit to the community at large in terms of new facilities.

The Kelvin Community Centre (Kelvin C.C.), for a variety of reasons, no longer meets the needs of the community for sport and recreation. Those services currently offered (soccer and lacrosse) are available because of the personal commitment of one or two individuals but they cannot continue indefinitely. In addition to financial investments to improve the facility, Kelvin C.C. needs on-going support to sustain its operation.

With a new community centre planned for Bronx Park, it seems unrealistic to expect that the City will invest the required resources in Kelvin C.C. By contrast, GKMUC has a mission to serve the community and a facility that exceeds the needs of the congregation and is well suited to community use. The cost of modernizing and upgrading GKMUC is considerably less than creating a new facility – therefore *in the context of the Glenelm neighbourhood*, the proposed project is a cost-effective way to expand community facilities.

<u>Criteria #3:</u> The project must not compete with or duplicate existing facilities.

As noted in our application, there are no childcare centres in Glenelm, one licensed family childcare home and a few unlicensed child care homes. Given the demand for the childcare in Winnipeg in general and Glenelm in particular, this project will not compete with or duplicate existing facilities.

As noted above, this facility will not duplicate or compete with Kelvin C.C. as the latter is not providing significant services or opportunities.

<u>Criteria #4:</u> The project must remain accessible to all members of the community.

The Centre will be open to all within the community and, space permitting, children from other neighbourhoods. Our goal is to expand the Centre to accommodate more children and provide infant care. As noted above, some of the facility upgrades will benefit other community groups wishing to use the facility.

<u>Criteria #5</u>: The applicant must provide confirmation of sufficient resources to maintain and operate the completed project.

The Centre will be funded by fees paid by parents and guardians, grants from Manitoba Family Services and Housing and on-going fundraising activities.

<u>Criteria #</u>6: The application must articulate plans, specifications and project requirements.

See the *Langreen* report attached to our application.

<u>Criteria #7</u>: The project must be feasible within the project management capabilities of the applicant.

The Centre intends to retain professional project managers who will be supervised by volunteers of the Church and Centre who have professional experience and qualifications including a lawyer, a materials and services procurement specialist, book-keeper, an architect, skilled trades people and contractors.

<u>Criteria #8</u>: The applicant's 50% matching funds must not include other City funds

No other City funds have been received or requested. Granting of our application will, we believe, encourage other funding organizations to support our project.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of our application.

Yours truly,

"Sandra Phillips"

Sandra Phillips, Chair

cc Lillian Thomas, Councillor, Elmwood-East Kildonan