

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2015 March 13

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2015

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2014 and to propose a Workplan for 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2015 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.
2. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$900 from the 2015 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to cover the production costs of printing of child care brochures.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) was established in 1990 as a sub-committee of the Social Planning Committee (formerly the Social Issues Committee). It is comprised of representatives from non-profit child care societies operating in Burnaby, as well as Fraser Health, the Burnaby School District, the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral Program, and the City's Planning and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Departments.

As outlined in its Terms of Reference, the mandate of the CCRG is to:

- serve as an advisory body to the Social Planning Committee on child care matters;
- assist with the development of Burnaby child care policies, services and programs; and
- act as an advocate for child care services and programs in Burnaby.

In accordance with Burnaby's Child Care Policy, originally adopted by Burnaby Council in 1993 and revised in 2000, the CCRG has prepared periodic update reports on its activities for the Social Planning Committee and Council. This report provides an overview of activities in 2014, and proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for 2015.

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2.0 KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2014

2.1 Social Sustainability Strategy Actions Related to Child Care

The CCRG provided advice related to two actions in the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy, namely:

***Action #1:** Examine the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of more child care facilities (e.g., allowing child care as a permitted use in commercial districts); and*

***Action #2:** Continue to advocate to the federal and provincial governments for a comprehensive and integrated child care plan which establishes an early care and learning system that is universal, publicly funded, inclusive, affordable, and of high quality.*

In relation to **Action #1**, staff, in consultation with the CCRG, has continued to review potential opportunities within the Zoning Bylaw to facilitate the development of child care facilities. In 2012 April, Council approved amendments to the Zoning Bylaw that provide the option for one non-resident employee to work in a home-based centre and simplify the approval process for opening a home-based child care centre. The Zoning Bylaw review will continue to examine the implications of including child care as an outright permitted use in commercial and other non-residential zoning districts.

In relation to **Action #2**, the CCRG has continued to track Provincial child care policy and the progress of the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning* prepared by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C. and the Early Childhood Educators of B.C. in 2011 April. The Plan received broad support and has been endorsed by the City of Burnaby, the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors, the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and many other local and regional governments, as well as numerous organizations.

In 2013 February the Provincial government announced a BC Early Years Strategy that will increase early years services by \$76 million over the next three years. According to the Early Years Strategy, the funds will be used to create new child care spaces, improve the quality of early years services and strengthen coordination of early childhood development programs and child care services. In 2014, the Province announced \$14.8 million in major capital funding programs to create new child care spaces. In the first round of funding, 32 child care providers received a total of \$7 million to create 447 new spaces on school grounds and 559 spaces in other facilities across B.C. In Burnaby, the SFU Child Care Society received \$500,000 to create 24 new school aged spaces at the SFU Child Care Centre in the first round of funding. In late 2014, a second round of funding for up to another 1,000 new child care spaces was announced. The Province has not yet confirmed if there will be a third rounding of funding for 2015/16. The deadline for applications is 2015 March 20. The CCRG will continue to monitor progress on the Early Years Strategy.

2.2 Child Care Information and Awareness

The CCRG assisted staff in reviewing its comprehensive Child Care Planning Resource Package. The package has proven to be a valuable resource for those interested in starting a new child care centre or changing their existing child care license type. Based on advice from the CCRG, the package will be updated with Census information and current Child Care Licensing Regulations.

The CCRG also worked with staff to prepare a step-by-step guide to the approvals process for home-based child care providers. The simplified guide explains the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw and approvals process for opening a child care centre in a home. Staff worked closely with Fraser Health Licensing and the Burnaby Fire Department in developing the guide. The guide is available on the website and at the front counters of the Planning Department and Fraser Health Licensing.

In addition, the CCRG worked with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development (ECD) Table to present a workshop for parents and child care providers on the importance of play-based learning in fostering age appropriate social-emotional development. The workshop was prompted by the results of the 2013 Early Childhood Development Index (EDI) survey of Burnaby kindergarten children. The EDI found that 32% of Burnaby children were vulnerable in one or more scales measured by the EDI (Communication, Physical Health and Well-being, Language and Cognitive Development, Emotional Maturity and Social Competence) with the highest vulnerability in the Emotional Maturity and Social Competence scales. The workshop took place on 2015 January 17 at the Tommy Douglas library. The workshop was well received by the 25 parents and child care providers in attendance.

2.3 Child Care Month

As part of child care month, the CCRG was involved in a number of activities, as follows:

Proclamation of Child Care Month – At the request of the CCRG, City Council proclaimed May 2014 as Child Care Month and May 14 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. Banners celebrating Child Care Month and the importance of quality child care as a foundation of life-long learning were displayed from the City's pedestrian overpasses on Canada Way in front of City Hall and on Kingsway near Boundary Road.

Child Care Provider Appreciation Event – The CCRG collaborated with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Table in sponsoring a Child Care Provider Appreciation Event at the Confederation Seniors Centre on 2014 May 14. The event was attended by about 80 Burnaby child care providers.

Site Visit and Presentation to the Social Issues Committee – On the invitation of the CCRG and the SFU Child Care Society, the Social Issues Committee was invited to hold its 2014 June 4 meeting at the UniverCity Child Care Centre. Committee members were able to tour the 50 space centre that incorporates advanced environmental design and the Reggio Emilia¹ child care

¹ The Reggio Emilia model emphasizes three teachers: the educator, the environment and the broader community in which children live. The centre's design and program promote self-directed learning.

program. The tour was followed by a presentation by CCRG members on quality child care from both a design and program perspective.

3.0 THE YEAR AHEAD

During 2015, in addition to its ongoing role in monitoring changes in the child care environment at the Provincial and Federal levels, and advising on emerging child care needs and issues, the CCRG proposes to focus on three main initiatives and ancillary activities (see proposed 2015 Workplan, *attached as Appendix I*).

3.1 Ongoing Work on Social Sustainability Strategy Actions Related to Child Care

Staff, in consultation with the CCRG, will continue the review of the Zoning Bylaw for potential opportunities to facilitate the development of child care facilities in support of Action #1 of the Social Sustainability Strategy noted above.

Related to this work, staff in consultation with the CCRG, will prepare a report on minor amendments to the Zoning Bylaw necessitated by BC Building Code changes that came into effect in 2014 December that affect group child care centres. As a result of the Code changes, a maximum of eight children is now permitted in a group centre within a single family dwelling. Under the home occupation provisions of the Zoning Bylaw, ten children are currently permitted in a group centre within a single family dwelling. The amendments to the Zoning Bylaw will create consistency between the Building Code and the Zoning Bylaw. It is anticipated that the report will be forwarded through the Social Planning and Planning and Development Committees in 2015.

In relation to Action #2 of the Strategy, staff will continue to monitor progress of the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning* referred to above. It will also monitor implementation of the Provincial Early Years Strategy, included in the Major Capital Funding Program noted above, and advise the Social Planning Committee on any issues for its consideration.

3.2 Child Care Information and Awareness

The CCRG will continue its efforts to publicize information on the importance of quality child care. To this end, the CCRG proposes to:

- 1) Assist staff in the ongoing work to update the Child Care Planning Resource Package.
- 2) Prepare a pamphlet on quality child care from a program and design perspective. The pamphlet would outline concepts contained in the presentation to the Social Planning Committee at its meeting in 2014 June. The intent of the pamphlet would be to create awareness of the role quality child care plays in promoting appropriate social-emotional development and reducing child vulnerability as measured by the domains of the Early Childhood Development index, described in Section 2.2 above. The pamphlet would complement two other pamphlets produced by the CCRG: 1)

Finding Child Care in Burnaby and 2) Critical Child Care Challenges. The pamphlets would be distributed in the community through CCRG members, made available at public events such as Healthy Kids Preschooler Fairs, and posted on the City's website.

In recognition of the important contribution quality child care makes toward economic development, it is proposed that the brochure be shared with the Burnaby Board of Trade as well.

The estimated cost to print the new brochure and to reprint the CCRG's existing brochures is \$900. Funds are available in the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to cover the costs.

- 3) Work with the Burnaby ECD Table to offer a workshop for parents and child care providers on the importance of play-based learning and fostering age appropriate social-emotional development. The workshop would build on the successful workshop held on 2015 January 17 described in Section 2.2 above. The proposed workshop would be offered at a north Burnaby venue. As with the last workshop, the City would provide support in terms of staff time, promotion of the event, and use of a City venue. The ECD Table would be responsible for providing the presenter and promoting the workshop as well.

3.3 Celebration of Child Care Month

To raise public awareness of the importance of child care, the CCRG proposes to celebrate Child Care Month in May 2015 by:

- requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim the month and child care provider appreciation day;
- displaying banners celebrating Child Care Month from the City's pedestrian overpasses;
- working with and providing in-kind support to the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table in co-sponsoring an appreciation event for Burnaby child care providers;
- submitting an article on the importance of quality child care to the local newspapers; and
- inviting the Social Planning Committee to hold its 2015 June 3 meeting at one of five City-owned child care centres. As part of the meeting, the operator of the centre would prepare a presentation for the Committee on the history and operations of the centre. (The Chair of the Social Planning Committee has been advised of this invitation and is in agreement.)

As the year progresses, members of the CCRG may identify other activities pertaining to child care issues in Burnaby. The CCRG would seek prior approval for any additional major activities it wishes to undertake in 2015. Resource requirements for the CCRG's proposed 2015 activities are expected to be minimal, consisting primarily of the cost of printing child care pamphlets noted above in Section 3.2 (\$900). Other City expenses associated with the CCRG's work program can be accommodated within the Planning Department's operating budget.

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4.0 CONCLUSION

This report has provided an overview of the CCRG's key activities in 2014. It also proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for the year ahead. During 2015, the CCRG proposes to:

- continue to assist in the implementation of two actions pertaining to child care contained in Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy including monitoring progress on the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning* and reviewing the Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of child care facilities; this review will include minor amendments to the home occupation provisions of the Zoning Bylaw to create consistency between the maximum number of children permitted in a group child care centre within a single family dwelling and recent changes to the B.C. Building Code;
- continue to prepare and distribute information on child care; these activities will include the preparation of an information pamphlet on the importance of quality child care from a design and program perspective;
- co-sponsor a workshop with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Table on play-based learning and age appropriate social-emotional development for parents and child care providers; and
- celebrate Child Care Month, including inviting the Social Planning Committee to hold its 2015 June 3 meeting at one of the five City-owned child care centres.

The CCRG will also assume its customary role of monitoring changes in the child care environment at the Provincial and Federal levels, and providing advice to the Social Planning Committee and Council on appropriate City responses as necessary.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2015 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.

It is also recommended that the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$900 from the 2015 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to cover printing costs for child care pamphlets.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa
Attachment

cc: City Manager
City Clerk
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Finance

Burnaby Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) Draft 2015 Workplan

Child Care Resources Group Mandate (as outlined in CCRG Terms of Reference):

- to serve as an advisory body to the Social Planning Committee on child care matters;
- to assist with the development of Burnaby child care policies, services and programs; and
- to act as an advocate for child care services and programs in Burnaby.

Child Care Resources Group Activities for 2015:

- 1) Assist in the implementation of Actions #1 and 2¹ in Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy. In relation to Action #1, staff, in consultation with the CCRG, will continue the review of the Zoning Bylaw for potential opportunities to facilitate the development of child care. Related to Action #1, the CCRG will assist with the preparation of a report on minor amendments to the Zoning Bylaw necessitated by recent BC Building Code changes that affect group child care centres.

In relation to Action #2, the CCRG will continue to monitor progress of the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning* prepared by the Child Care Advocates of B.C. and the Early Childhood Educators of B.C. It will also monitor implementation of the Provincial Early Years Strategy, including the major capital funding program announced in 2014. The CCRG will advise the Social Planning Committee on any advocacy actions for its consideration.

- 2) Assist in preparing and publicizing information on quality child care.
 - The CCRG will assist in the update of its comprehensive Child Care Planning Resource Package.
 - The CCRG will prepare a pamphlet on the importance of quality child care from a design and program perspective and distribute this information broadly in the community.
 - The CCRG will work with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table to co-sponsor a workshop on play-based learning and social-emotional development for parents and child care providers.
- 3) Help to celebrate Child Care Month by:
 - requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim May 2015 as Child Care Month and proclaim child care provider appreciation day;
 - displaying banners celebrating Child Care Month from pedestrian overpasses;

¹ Action #1: *Examine the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of more child care facilities. (e.g., allowing child care as a permitted use in commercial districts).* Action #2: *Continue to advocate to the federal and provincial governments for a comprehensive and integrated child care plan which establishes an early care and learning system that is universal, publicly funded, inclusive, affordable, and of high quality.*

- submitting an article on the importance of quality child care to local newspapers;
- collaborating with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Planning Table in sponsoring an appreciation event for child care providers; and
- inviting the Social Planning Committee to hold its 2015 June 3 meeting at one of the five City-owned child care centres.