

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2016 January 21

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2016

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2015 and to propose a Workplan for 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2016 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.
2. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$900 from the 2016 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to cover the production costs of printing of child care pamphlets.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) was established in 1990 as a sub-committee of the Social Planning 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 2015 and proposes a workplan for the CCRG for 2016.

2.0 KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2015

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 various zoning 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, prepared a report on minor amendments to the Zoning Bylaw necessitated by BC Building Code changes that came into effect on 2014 December that affect home-based child care centres. As a result of Code changes related to building safety, a maximum of eight children is now permitted in a group centre within a single family dwelling where previously a maximum of 10 children were permitted. The amendments will create consistency between the Building Code and Zoning Bylaw and provide greater clarity for child care providers interested in offering home-based child care. This report is anticipated to be advanced through Council's Planning and Development Committee at its 2016 January 26 meeting.

In relation to **Action #2**, the CCRG has continued to track Provincial child care policy. 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 Province, the funds will be used to create 13,000 new child care spaces by 2020; improve the quality of early years services; and strengthen coordination of early childhood development programs and child care services. Since 2013, 2,400 new child care spaces have been funded. To date, one Burnaby provider, SFU Child Care Society, has been the recipient of these funds: in 2014, it received \$500,000 to create 24 new school aged spaces at the SFU Child Care Centre. A new funding call was announced in 2015 November for an additional 1,700 spaces, with a 2016 February 26 deadline for applications. The CCRG will continue to monitor the implementation of the Early Years Strategy in relation to child care needs.

2.2 Child Care Information and Awareness

Revised Step-by-Step Guide - The CCRG worked with staff to update and revise 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. The guide is consistent with the proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw noted in Section 2.1 above.

Parent and Child Care Provider Workshop - The CCRG collaborated with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development (ECD) Table to prepare a workshop for parents and child care providers on the importance of play-based learning for age-appropriate social-emotional development and well-

being. The workshop, to be held on 2016 January 30 at Lochdale Community School, is modelled after a similar workshop presented by the CCRG at the Tommy Douglas Library in 2015 January. These workshops respond to the latest wave of Early Development Index (EDI) survey results of Burnaby kindergarten children, as administered by UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership and the Burnaby School District. The EDI measures five core areas of child development: Communication, Physical Health and Well-being, Language and Cognitive Development, Emotional Maturity, and Social Competence.

Quality Child Care Pamphlet – The CCRG worked with staff to prepare a pamphlet on quality child care. The purpose of the pamphlet is to create awareness of the importance of quality child care and the role it plays in promoting age-appropriate social-emotional development and reducing vulnerability as measured by the Early Childhood Development Index. The pamphlet also highlights the contribution quality child care makes to families, businesses and society. The pamphlet complements two other pamphlets produced by the CCRG: 1) Finding Child Care in Burnaby and 2) Critical Child Care Challenges (e.g., child care costs, finding suitable child care and recruiting and retaining child care staff). The pamphlet was finalized by the CCRG at its 2016 January meeting.

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 2015 as Child Care Month and May 21 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 Burnaby Neighbourhood House on 2015 May 20. The event was attended by about 70 Burnaby child care providers.

Site Visit and Presentation to the Social Planning Committee – In recognition of Child Care Month, the Social Planning Committee held its June 3 meeting at the City-owned Madison Children's Centre. Committee members toured the centre and received a presentation from representatives from the Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth and Families (operators of the City-owned Madison, Yukon and Cameron Children's Centres) and Burnaby Children's Centres Society (operators of the City-owned Hanna Court and Taylor Park Children's Centres). The presentation focused on the operation of the centres and the benefits the centres provide to working families in Burnaby.

3.0 THE YEAR AHEAD

During 2016, 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 2016 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. This review will examine the implications of including child care as an outright permitted use in various zoning districts.

In relation to Action #2 of the Strategy, staff will continue to monitor child care policy and implementation of the Provincial Early Years Strategy, including the Major Capital Funding Program to create new child care spaces, as noted above. The CCRG will advise the Social Planning Committee on any issues for its consideration.

3.2 Child Care Information and Awareness

The CCRG will continue to create awareness of the importance of quality child care. To this end, the CCRG proposes to print and distribute the quality child care pamphlet. It should be noted that Council approved the expenditure of \$900 from the 2015 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to cover production costs of the pamphlet. Due to a number of revisions to the draft pamphlet, the finalized version was not completed until 2016 January and therefore the approved funds were not expended in 2015. It is proposed that the Committee request Council to approve the expenditure of \$900 from the 2016 Boards, Committees and Commissions operating budget to have the pamphlets printed this year (*attached as Appendix 2*).

Once printed and posted on the City's website, it is proposed that the pamphlets be distributed to the community through CCRG members and at public events such Healthy Kids Preschooler Fairs.

In addition, in recognition of the important contribution quality child care makes toward community well-being, it is proposed that members of the CCRG meet with Burnaby's MPs, MLAs and representatives of the Burnaby Board of Trade to discuss the contents of the pamphlet, as well as to inform them of the CCRG and various child care related resources in the community.

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 2016 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 (ECD) 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 newspaper; and
- preparing a presentation for the 2016 June 1 Social Planning Committee meeting on the latest results of the Early Development Index and Middle Year Development Index (MDI)¹ surveys. The CCRG would work with the Burnaby ECD Table and Burnaby School Aged Initiative on the presentation to provide information on the well-being of Burnaby children.

¹ The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-reported questionnaire completed by children in Grades 4 and 7. It asks them how they think and feel about their experiences both inside and outside of school. The survey is administered by UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership and the Burnaby School District.

To: Social Planning Committee
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Child Care Resources Group Update for 2016
2016 January 21..... Page 5

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 2016. Resource requirements for the CCRG's proposed 2016 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.

4.0 CONCLUSION

This report has provided an overview of the CCRG's key activities in 2015. It also proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for the year ahead. During 2016, the CCRG proposes to:

- continue to assist in the implementation of two child care related actions contained in Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy including: 1) 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 and 2) reviewing the Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of child care facilities;
- prepare and distribute an information pamphlet on the importance of quality child care; and
- celebrate Child Care Month, including preparing a presentation for the Social Planning Committee on the latest results of the Early Development Index (EDI) and Middle Years Development Index (MDI) surveys of Burnaby children.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2016 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.

It is also recommended that the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$900 from the 2016 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to cover printing costs for child care pamphlets.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa

Attachments

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

Burnaby Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) Proposed 2016 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 2016:

- 1) Assist in the implementation of Actions #1 and 2 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. This review will examine the implications of including child care as an outright permitted use in various zoning districts.

In relation to Action #2, the CCRG will continue to monitor child care policy and implementation of the Provincial Early Years Strategy, including the major capital funding program for new child care spaces. The CCRG will advise the Social Planning Committee on any advocacy actions for its consideration.

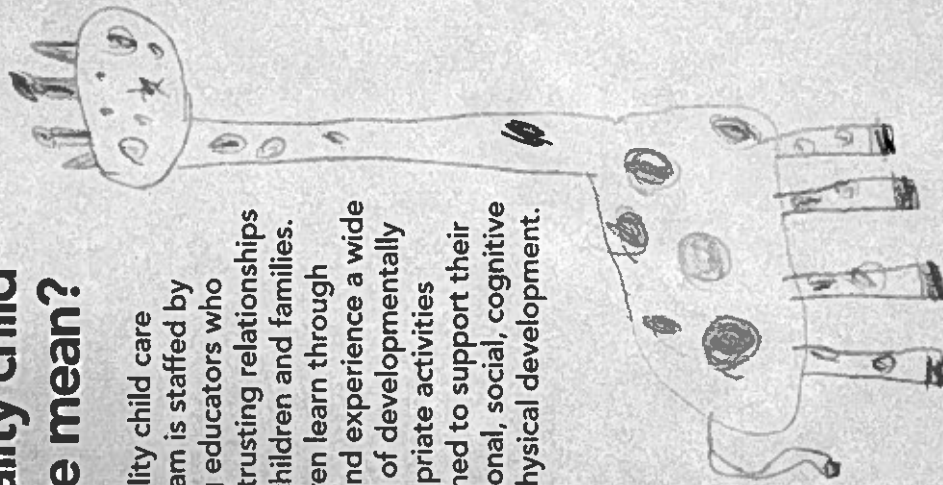
- 2) Publicize information on quality child care. The CCRG proposes to distribute its pamphlet on quality child care to the community through CCRG members, at public events and through the City's website. In addition, in recognition of the important contribution quality child care makes toward community well-being, the CCRG proposes to meet with Burnaby's MPs, MLAs and representatives of the Burnaby Board of Trade to discuss the contents of the pamphlet as well as to inform them of the CCRG and various child care related resources in the community.

- 3) Help to celebrate Child Care Month by:

- requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim May 2016 as Child Care Month and proclaim child care provider appreciation day;
- displaying banners celebrating Child Care Month from pedestrian overpasses;
- 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
- preparing a presentation for the Social Planning Committee on the latest results of the Early Development Index and Middle Year Development Index (MDI) surveys. The CCRG would work with the Burnaby ECD Table and Burnaby School Aged Initiative on the presentation to provide information on the well-being of Burnaby children.

What does quality child care mean?

A quality child care program is staffed by caring educators who build trusting relationships with children and families. Children learn through play and experience a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities designed to support their emotional, social, cognitive and physical development.



Sienna, Age 9
Stride Neighbourhood Care

Quality child care resources and information

Childcare Resource and Research Unit
www.childcarecanada.org/

Canadian Council on Learning
www.ccl-cca.ca

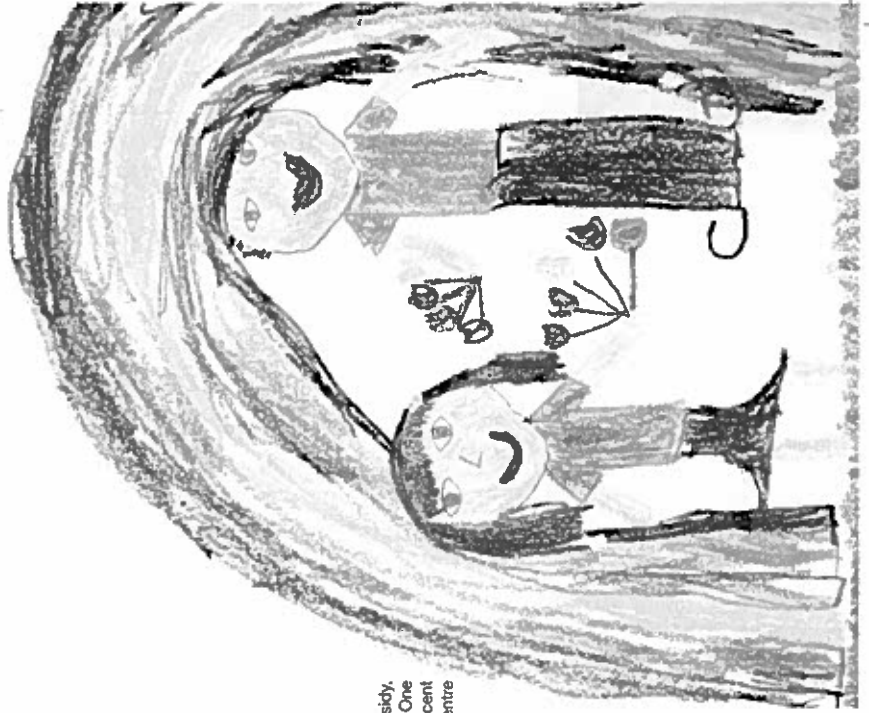
Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Planning Table
www.kidsinburnaby.ca

British Columbia Early Learning Framework –
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/teach/earlylearning/early_learning_framework.pdf

BC Child Care Licensing Regulation
http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/332_2007

Our Children Deserve the Best

WHY QUALITY CHILD CARE MATTERS



Cassidy,
Grade One
Yukon Crescent
Children's Centre



Prepared by Burnaby Child Care Resources Group, a sub-committee of Burnaby City Council's Social Planning Committee.

January, 2016

What does quality child care look like?

Licensed child care programs must follow B.C.'s Child Care Licensing Regulation which outlines staff qualifications and ratios, play space safety, programming, record keeping, positive guidance, and health and hygiene rules.

Meeting the regulations is an important basis for quality but is considered to be a minimum.

Quality child care programs create a warm and welcoming space that focuses on

- Well-being and belonging of all children
- Physical accessibility for all children
- Learning through play
- Exploration and creativity
- Opportunities for active play – especially outdoors
- Opportunities for quiet play and rest
- Practices that support positive interactions amongst children
- Warm, responsive interactions between staff and children
- Participation of, support for and communication with parents
- Professional development of staff

Why does quality child care matter?

Lachlan, Grade 5
Yukon Crescent
Children's Centre

For children -

Research strongly indicates that participation in quality early childhood programs benefits children cognitively, socially, intellectually, physically, and in language development and creativity.

For parents -

Quality child care helps parents balance school, work, and family responsibilities.

Quality child care supports parents in their parenting role as they work together with their child care provider. Quality child care provides parents with opportunities for sharing and learning, networking, and referrals to a variety of community resources.

For business -

Quality child care helps businesses hire and retain employees.

Employees with safe, reliable quality child care are

- more likely to be able to focus on work, and
- less likely to miss days of work due to child care related challenges.

For society -

For children, participation in quality child care helps lay the foundation for school success, higher education, the development of social-emotional skills, and life-long learning.

Quality child care permits parents to participate in training, education and employment.

"Research shows that while high quality child care positively influences children's development and learning, poor quality care is shown to have negative effects on children - regardless of social class. The effects of high or poor quality child care may be long-lasting. Therefore, quality in child care matters very much - for children, their parents, our communities, and, perhaps most importantly, for our society as a whole."

Source: Child Care Canada - Child Care Resource and Research Unit