

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SUSTAINABLE CITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2017 March 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: **CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2017**

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2016 and to propose a Workplan for 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2017 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.
2. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$600 from the 2017 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to support community engagement and resource material costs.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) was established in 1990 as a sub-committee of the Social Planning Committee¹. 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 update reports on its activities for the Social Planning Committee and Council. This report provides an overview of activities in 2016 and proposes a workplan for the CCRG for 2017.

¹ The Social Planning Committee was previously named the Social Issues Committee (2003 to 2014) and the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee (1990-2003).

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

Over the years, the CCRG has assisted staff in monitoring the child care environment and identifying and providing advice to address emerging issues in child care. It was instrumental in developing the City's Child Care Policy, adopted in 1994 and revised in 2000. The Policy's vision states that the City is committed to:

- assisting with the creation of a comprehensive and inclusive child care system in Burnaby;
- supporting families and children in their search for child care options; and
- working with the School Board, government ministries, child care providers, community service providers, and others in pursuing the City's child care objectives.

Further, the Child Care Policy states that the City will work to improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of child care by providing appropriate and sufficient opportunities for the establishment of child care facilities within the context of the Official Community Plan, community plans, the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw, and other City regulations. These policy statements are also identified as key objectives in the City's Social Sustainability Strategy, adopted in 2011. The Strategy recognizes the role child care plays in people's economic security and its contribution towards the development of complete communities (communities with a range of housing, services, transportation options and amenities within their own boundaries). City policies recognize that while the provision and regulation of child care is the responsibility of the Provincial government, the City can play a supportive role.

3.0 KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE CCRG IN 2016

3.1 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 Zoning Bylaw amendments 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 provide 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 was advanced

through Council's Planning and Development Committee at its 2016 April 26 meeting. The Zoning Bylaw amendments received final adoption by Council on 2016 December 12.

In relation to **Action #2**, the CCRG has continued to track child care policy at the Provincial and Federal level. In 2013 February, the Provincial government announced a BC Early Years Strategy that will increase early years services by \$76 million over the coming 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, 4,300 new child care spaces have been funded. In Burnaby, the SFU Child Care Society received \$500,000 to create 24 new school aged spaces in 2014 and in 2015/16 (the third intake of the program), the BCIT Student Association received \$500,000 to create 37 new spaces – 12 for infants and toddlers and 25 for children aged three to five. The Province announced the fourth intake for the Major Capital Funding Program on 2017 March 15 with a deadline of 2017 May 15 for initial applications to the program.

In its 2017 budget, the Federal government announced that it will allocate \$7 billion for child care across Canada over the next decade. This amount includes \$500 million allocated for 2017-18 announced in the 2016 budget. Details of how the funds will be allocated have yet to be announced.

3.2 Child Care Information and Awareness

Visits to Burnaby politicians and the Burnaby Board of Trade – As a follow-up to the development of its Quality Child Care pamphlet prepared in 2015, the CCRG met with Burnaby's local politicians and representatives of the Burnaby Board of Trade in 2016 to discuss the contents of the pamphlet, inform them of the CCRG, and raise awareness of the various child care related resources in the community. Members of the CCRG met with all four of Burnaby Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Social Development Committee of the Burnaby Board of Trade. The CCRG intends to continue in 2017 with visits to Burnaby MPs.

3.3 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 2016 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 2016 May 18. The event was well received and attended by over 90 Burnaby child care providers from home-based, private and non-profit child care centres throughout Burnaby.

4.0 THE YEAR AHEAD - 2017

During 2017, 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 2017 Workplan, *attached* as Appendix 1).

4.1 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, the CCRG will continue to monitor child care policy at the Provincial and Federal level including implementation of the Provincial government's Major Capital Funding Program to create new child care spaces, as well as new policy and funding directives from the Federal government. The CCRG will advise the Committee on any issues for its consideration.

4.2 CCRG Terms of Reference

The CCRG now reports through staff to the Sustainable City Advisory Committee, formerly the Social Planning Committee. To reflect this change as well as changes in the names of some of its members, staff will complete the administrative process to revise the CCRG's Terms of Reference accordingly.

4.3 Child Care Awareness

Children's Charter

In 2017, the CCRG proposes to work with the Burnaby Children's Community Table² in its process to develop a Children's Charter. A Children's Charter sets out a vision for a child-friendly city and promotes the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the community level. Generally, in a child-friendly city, children and youth have:

- a healthy start in life,
- access to safe places to live and play,
- a supporting and caring community where children and youth feel they belong,
- lifelong learning opportunities, and
- opportunities to reach their full potential.

² The Burnaby Children's Community Table (BCCT) includes a broad base of non-government community service providers and government representatives from the City (Parks, Recreation and Culture, Burnaby Public Library and Social Planning), Burnaby School District, Fraser Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

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In this regard, the BCCT appeared as a delegation to Council in 2016 November 7³ to inform Council of its intention to develop a Children's Charter and to seek the City's ongoing in-kind support for its activities (participation of City staff at Table meetings, use of venues and help with promotion).

To develop the Charter, Table members intend to engage in activities with children and families to learn about child rights and what makes children feel safe and happy in their community. As part of this process, CCRG members propose to engage with children and families in child care centres. CCRG members will help develop and use the resource materials for these activities. To help support the development of resource materials and the engagement process, it is proposed that the Sustainable City Advisory Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$600 from the 2017 Boards, Committees and Commissions operating budget. The City Clerk has advised that sufficient budget is available for this purpose.

Once the Charter is drafted (anticipated for Fall 2017), the BCCT will be asking public agency partners (City, School District, MCFD, Fraser Health) to review and endorse the charter.

Visits to Burnaby Politicians

As mentioned in section 3.2 above, the CCRG will continue with its visits to Burnaby politicians to discuss the contents of its recently prepared Quality Child Care pamphlet and raise awareness of child care issues and resources in the community. The CCRG will aim to visit Burnaby's Members of Parliament as well as convey information to Council on these topics.

4.4 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 2017 by:

- requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim the month as child care provider appreciation day;
- 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 on 2017 May 25; and
- submitting an article on the importance of quality child care to the local newspaper.

As the year progresses, members of the CCRG may identify other activities pertaining to child care issues in Burnaby. Staff working with the CCRG would seek prior approval for any additional major activities it wishes to undertake in 2017. Resource requirements for the CCRG's proposed 2017 activities are expected to be minimal, consisting primarily of the costs associated with preparing resource materials and engaging with children and families in the process to develop a Children's Charter, as noted above in section 3.2 (\$600). Other City

³ As part of its delegation, the BCCT requested Council to: 1) proclaim November 20 as National Child Day, 2) continue to provide in-kind support for the Table's activities, and 3) support the Table in its bid to host the next Cities Fit for Children conference in spring 2018. A report on the BCCT's requests is currently being prepared for a Council meeting in April.

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expenses associated with the CCRG's work program can be accommodated within the Planning Department's operating budget.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report has provided an overview of the CCRG's key activities in 2016. It also proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for the year ahead. During 2017, 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) reviewing the Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of child care facilities; and 2) 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;
- update its Terms of Reference documents to reflect recent changes;
- support the Burnaby Children's Community Table in its process to develop a Children's Charter by engaging in activities with children and families in child care centres to learn about child rights and what makes children feel safe and happy in their community;
- visit Burnaby's Members of Parliament and convey information to Council on the importance of quality child care and child care resources in the community; and
- celebrate Child Care Month, including support for the Child Care Provider Appreciation event on 2017 May.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2017 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.

It is also recommended that the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$600 from the 2017 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to support community engagement and resource material costs.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sla:sa
Attachment

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

**Burnaby Child Care Resources Group (CCRG)
Proposed 2017 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 2017:

- 1) Assist in the implementation of Actions #1 and 2 in the 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 at the Provincial and Federal level including implementation of the Provincial government's Major Capital Funding Program to create new child care spaces, as well as new policy and funding directives from the Federal government. The CCRG will advise the Social Planning Committee on any advocacy actions for its consideration.

- 2) Assist staff in revising the CCRG's Terms of Reference to reflect recent name changes.
- 3) Support the Burnaby Children's Community Table in its process to develop a Children's Charter for Burnaby. A Children's Charter sets out a vision for a child-friendly city and promotes the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the community level. To ensure the voices of children in Burnaby child care centres are included in the process, CCRG members propose to engage with children and families in child care centres. CCRG members will help develop and use the resource materials for these activities.
- 4) Continue with its visits to Burnaby politicians to discuss the contents of its recently prepared Quality Child Care pamphlet and raise awareness of child care issues and resources in the community. The CCRG will aim to visit Burnaby's Members of Parliament as well as convey information to Council on these topics.
- 5) Help to celebrate Child Care Month by:
 - requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim May 2017 as Child Care Month and proclaim child care provider appreciation day;
 - submitting an article on the importance of quality child care to the local newspaper; and
 - collaborating with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Planning Table in sponsoring an appreciation event for child care providers.