

COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES **FILE:** 7100-00

SUBJECT: EAST VANCOUVER NEWCOMER CAMP

PURPOSE: To provide information on the request from the East Vancouver Newcomer Camp.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Commission receive this report as information.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Dakota Koch of the East Vancouver Newcomer Camp.

REPORT

Appearing as a delegation on 2017 April 19, Dakota Koch represented the East Vancouver Newcomer Camp. The organization is a non-profit initiative organized by a group of university students and operates a free educational and recreational camp for recently arrived refugee children in Vancouver. In 2016 the camp helped 22 children, 9 of whom were from Burnaby. The organization plans to expand to Burnaby so they can accommodate a larger number of children.

The camp requires two days per week in a multi-use room for 8 weeks in July and August. Staff reached out to all recreation facilities to inquire about space availability. With existing programs and services already in place and planned, unfortunately there is no available space to accommodate the Newcomer Camp.

Staff have been in contact with Mr. Koch and have suggested that he contacts some of the many social service agencies operating in Burnaby, as well as the School Board to inquire about space for the camp. Mr. Koch advised that since his presentation to Commission, he has become aware that there is a greater need for their services in Surrey and he is currently looking for a location in that City.



Dave Ellenwood
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES