

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SUSTAINABLE CITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2018 January 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2018

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2017 and to propose a Workplan for 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2018 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.
2. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$800 from the 2018 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to support community engagement, resource material costs and professional development initiatives of the Child Care Resources Group.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) was established in 1990 as an advisory body on child care matters. 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 and Burnaby's Child Care Policy, the mandate of the CCRG is to:

- serve as an advisory body 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 the Child Care Policy, the CCRG has prepared update reports on its activities for the Sustainable City Advisory Committee¹ and Council. This report provides an overview of activities in 2017 and proposes a workplan for the CCRG for 2018.

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). Similarly, the City's Environmental Sustainability Strategy supports the development of complete communities that are walkable, bikeable and transit-supported. 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.

Support for the work of the CCRG aligns with the City's recently adopted Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting:

A Connected Community

- Social connection
- Partnership

An Inclusive Community

- Serve a diverse city
- Create a sense of community

A Healthy Community

- Healthy life

¹ Prior to the creation of the Sustainable City Advisory Committee in 2017 February, the CCRG prepared update reports to the Social Planning Committee.

- Healthy environment
- Lifelong learning
- Community involvement

A Dynamic Community

- Economic opportunity
- Community development
- City facilities and infrastructure

3.0 KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE CCRG IN 2017

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, researched the potential to include child care facilities as a permitted use in select commercial, industrial and business districts in the Zoning Bylaw.

In relation to **Action #2**, the CCRG has continued to track child care policy at the Provincial and Federal level. Subsequent to the election of the new Provincial government, the CCRG members have participated in a Provincial survey and tracked potential policy directions to address challenges in the child care system. The new Provincial government has stated it intends to create a universal, affordable child care system over the next ten years. It has indicated that it will introduce a three-year implementation plan in the 2018 Budget that will focus on the affordability of child care, creation of new spaces and development of the child care workforce. In 2017 December, the Provincial government also announced the recipients of its fourth round of major capital funding for child care spaces since 2014. Three Burnaby child care providers (two privately-run and one non-profit) received funds to create new spaces: Brightstart Children's Academy (\$250,000, 94 new spaces), Smilestones Junior Kindergarten (\$250,000, 40 new spaces) and the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (\$500,000, 37 new spaces).

In its 2017 budget, the Federal government announced that it would allocate \$7 billion for child care across Canada over the next decade. Details of how the funds will be allocated have yet to be determined.

3.2 Child Care Information and Awareness

Visits to Burnaby elected representatives – Members of the CCRG continued with visits they started in 2016 with Burnaby’s elected representatives to raise awareness of child care issues and resources. Members of the CCRG met with MPs Kennedy Stewart and Terry Beech and had a broader roundtable discussion on child care issues with the Provincial Minister of State for Child Care and Burnaby-Lougheed MLA Katrina Chen and MLA Janet Routledge, MLA for Burnaby North. Councillor Colleen Jordan also attended the roundtable. Key issues raised by CCRG members included:

- **staffing and training** – the serious challenge of finding qualified staff to work in child care centres and the discrepancy in the quality of ECE training provided by public versus private institutions;
- **space** – the challenge of finding sites suitable for new child care spaces and the cost of maintaining aging child care centres; and
- **fees** – the high cost of child care for Burnaby families.

CCRG members felt their concerns were heard and are hopeful that the Provincial government’s new direction in child care will address the challenges in the sector.

3.3 Children’s Charter

The CCRG worked 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.

To develop the Charter, the Community Table provided a training session for community service providers, including child care providers, on activities to use with children and families to learn about the rights of the child and what makes children feel safe and happy in their community. To help support these activities, Council approved an expenditure of up to \$600 from the 2017 Boards, Committees and Commissions operating budget. Since Table members were not able to complete these activities in 2017, the CCRG requests that these funds be made available in 2018, as discussed in section 4.3 below.

3.4 Child Care Month

As part of child care month, the CCRG was involved in the following activities:

Proclamation of Child Care Month – At the request of the CCRG, City Council proclaimed May 2017 as Child Care Month and May 18 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day.

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.

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 2017 May 25. The event included an educational component on child social-emotional development which providers could use towards their annual professional development requirement. The event was well received and attended by over 80 Burnaby child care providers from home-based, private and non-profit child care centres throughout Burnaby.

4.0 THE YEAR AHEAD - 2018

During 2018, 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 four main initiatives and ancillary activities (see Proposed 2018 Workplan, *attached* as Appendix 1).

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

In support of *Action #1* of the Social Sustainability Strategy noted above, staff, in consultation with the CCRG, will review the Zoning Bylaw in order to facilitate the development of child care facilities.

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 any capital funding programs for new child care spaces. 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. Prior to 2017 February, the CCRG reported to the Social Planning Committee. To reflect this change as well as membership changes, staff will complete the administrative process to revise the CCRG's Terms of Reference accordingly.

4.3 Child Care Awareness

Child Care Round Table

Following successful visits to Burnaby elected representatives, the CCRG proposes to host a roundtable discussion with Federal, Provincial, School Board and municipal elected representatives in May as part of child care month. The purpose of the roundtable would be to explore options and opportunities to work together on child care challenges (e.g. creation of new spaces and maintenance of existing spaces, workforce development).

Children's Charter

In 2018, the CCRG proposes to continue working with the Burnaby Children's Community Table in its process to develop a Children's Charter, as noted in Section 3.3 above. To help support the development of resource materials and the engagement process with children and families in Burnaby, it is proposed that the Sustainable City Advisory Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$600 from the 2018 Boards, Committees and Commissions operating budget.

Once the charter is drafted (anticipated for Fall 2018), the BCCT will be asking public agency partners (City, School District, MCFD, Fraser Health) to review and endorse the charter.

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 2018 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; and
- collaborating with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development (ECD) Table in sponsoring an appreciation event for Burnaby child care providers in 2018 May. The event includes a professional development component on a topical issue in child care which providers can use towards their annual professional development requirement. The CCRG proposes that the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of \$200 to assist with sponsoring this event.

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 2018. Resource requirements for the CCRG's proposed 2018 activities are expected to consist primarily of the costs associated with supporting the Burnaby Children's Community Table's engagement process to develop a Children's Charter (\$600) and support for the noted above event (\$200). The City Clerk has advised that sufficient budget is available for these initiatives. Other City expenses associated with the CCRG's work program can be accommodated within the Planning Department's operating budget.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the CCRG's key activities in 2017. It also proposes a workplan for the CCRG for the year ahead. During 2018, the CCRG proposes to:

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- 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 Sustainable City Advisory 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;
- convene a roundtable discussion with elected representatives in Burnaby to explore options and opportunities to work together to address child care challenges; and
- celebrate Child Care Month, including support for the Child Care Provider Appreciation event in 2018 May.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2018 Child Care Resources Group Workplan.

It is also recommended that the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$800 from the 2018 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to support community engagement, resource material costs and professional development initiatives of the CCRG.



Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sla:sa
Attachment

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

**Burnaby Child Care Resources Group (CCRG)
Proposed 2018 Workplan**

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

- to serve as an advisory body 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 2018:

- 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 review the Zoning Bylaw in order to facilitate the development of child care facilities.

In relation to Action #2, the CCRG will continue to monitor child care policy at the Provincial and Federal level including any new capital funding programs. The CCRG will advise the Sustainable City Advisory Committee on any advocacy actions for its consideration.

- 2) Assist staff in revising the CCRG's Terms of Reference to reflect recent 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.
- 4) Convene a roundtable discussion with elected representatives in Burnaby to explore options and opportunities to work together to address child care challenges. It is proposed that the roundtable takes place during Child Care Month.
- 5) Help to celebrate Child Care Month by:
 - requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim May 2018 as Child Care Month and proclaim child care provider appreciation day;
 - displaying banners celebrating Child Care Month from the City's pedestrian overpasses; and
 - collaborating with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Planning Table in sponsoring an appreciation event for child care providers.