



January 23, 2019

Chair and Members
Executive Committee of Council
Burnaby City Council
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1M2

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

**RE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING – BURNABY EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TABLE**

We are writing to you on behalf of the Burnaby Early Childhood Development (ECD) Community Table to seek your funding support for the ongoing coordination of the Table's priorities.

The Burnaby ECD Table has been active since 2004. It is a coalition of non-profit and public partners that provide programs and services to Burnaby children ages 0 to 6 and their families. The City is represented at the Table with staff from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, the Library and the Planning Department. The Table aims to improve access to early childhood development services, including child care, and promote healthy child development.

Since 2004, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provided BC municipalities with funding to support the work of community tables. A portion of the funding, roughly \$28,000, was allocated to community development of which \$20,000 was allocated to a Coordinator position to help implement the priorities of the Table. In 2018, MCFD announced that all ECD Table funding would be redirected to programs and services in April 2019. Although that meant a considerable increase in funding for programs and services, it also meant a loss of funding and capacity at the community level. Funding for the coordinator position and associated Table activities will no longer be available.

The loss of funding for the coordinator position and associated Table priorities will severely impact the work of the Burnaby ECD Table. The coordinator plays a leadership role in bringing Burnaby agencies together to plan and deliver:

- programs (e.g. family drop-ins, Mother Goose early literacy programs),
- services (e.g. family counselling, parenting workshops, outreach to isolated Burnaby families),
- activities (Healthy Kids Fairs, Play to Learn), and
- educational support (Kids in Burnaby website and online google map of ECD programs and services, Burnaby ECD Facebook page, distribution and interpretation of UBC's Early Development Instrument (EDI) results for Burnaby kindergarten children).

The coordinator is able to harness significant in-kind contributions from all agencies at the Table to deliver the broad and far-ranging suite of services, programs and activities that individual agencies alone would not be able to provide. The sum is truly greater than the parts!

The Burnaby ECD Table does not want to lose all of the good work and partnerships that have developed over the years to support Burnaby children and families. To this end, we are aiming to create a Public Agency Partners Group to provide coordination funding support. We are seeking \$7000 from public partners in Burnaby including the Burnaby School District, Fraser Health, MCFD and the City. If each of these public partners provides \$7000, we will have sufficient funding to maintain the coordinator position and Table's activities from April 2019 to March 2020. We will also be engaging in other fund-raising activities. The work of the Burnaby ECD Table is just too valuable to lose.

We have requested to appear as a delegation at your next meeting where we would be happy to provide more details about our request to you for a community grant of \$7000 to help fund the activities of the Burnaby ECD Table.

In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Antonia Beck at: antoniab@burnabynh.ca or Tracey Rusnak at: tracey.rusnak@cameray.ca.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Kamala Sproule

(On behalf of the Burnaby ECD Table and the delegates: Antonia Beck and Tracey Rusnak)