

**SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2020**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Council endorse the proposed 2020 Child Care Resources Group work plan.
2. THAT Council approve an expenditure of \$300 from the 2020 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to support the activities of the Child Care Provider Appreciation event in 2020 May, as detailed in Section 4.0 of the report.

**REPORT**

The Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 2020 February 19, received and adopted the attached report providing a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2019 and proposing a work plan for 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan  
Chair

Councillor J. Keithley  
Vice Chair

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| Copied to: | City Manager<br>Director Planning and Building<br>Director Finance<br>Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services |
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2020 February 10

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 1750 20

**SUBJECT:** CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2020

**PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2019 and to propose a workplan for 2020.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to endorse the proposed 2020 Child Care Resources Group workplan.
2. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of \$300 from the 2020 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to support the activities of the Child Care Provider Appreciation event in 2020 May, as detailed in *Section 4.0* of this report.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) was established in 1990 as an advisory body to the City 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 Social Planning Committee<sup>1</sup> and Council. This report provides an overview of activities in 2019 and proposes a workplan for the CCRG for 2020.

**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

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to the 2020 Social Planning Committee, the CCRG prepared update reports to the Environment and Social Planning Committee (2017-18), the Sustainable City Advisory Committee (2017) and prior to that the Social Issues Committee (1990-2016).

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 Board of Education, 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 Corporate Strategic Plan* by supporting:

- ***A Connected Community***
  - Social Connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
  - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- ***An Inclusive Community***
  - Serve a Diverse Community – Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
  - Create a Sense of Community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- ***A Dynamic Community***
  - Economic Opportunity – Foster an environment that attracts new and supports existing jobs, businesses and industries
  - Community Development – Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging

### **3.0 KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE CCRG IN 2019**

#### **3.1 Social Sustainability Strategy Actions Related to Child Care**

In 2019, 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***

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*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 forwarded a report to Council in 2019 September proposing text amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to include child care facilities as a permitted use in additional P Public and Institutional Districts, specifically the P2 Administration District, P3 Park and Public Use District, and P6 Regional Institutional District. Permitting child care facilities as a principal use in additional P Districts will increase the potential to provide more child care spaces in Burnaby and will compliment the cultural, recreational and institutional uses, such as schools and community centres, permitted in these districts.

In relation to *Action #2*, the CCRG has continued to track child care policy and programs at the Provincial and Federal level. In 2017, the new Provincial government committed to addressing the critical shortage of quality, affordable child care spaces throughout B.C. The 2018 Provincial budget contained a three-year implementation plan that focused on the affordability of child care (a fee reduction and subsidy program for parents), creation of new spaces through a major capital funding program, and initiatives to increase the number of qualified Early Childhood Educators to work in the sector. In relation to these initiatives, in 2019 January the City was awarded a grant of \$1 million each for the development of the Montecito and Capitol Hill Children's Centres currently under development.

In addition, through the Province's Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCC) with the Federal government, the Province has created more than 50 prototype sites to test funding and operational models required to move towards a universal child care system. At these sites families pay \$200 or less per month per child for full-time enrolment during regular business hours, regardless of the care type. Four of the prototype sites (Fairhaven Children's Centre, Burnaby South Childcare, Bee Daycare and Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Child Care) are located in Burnaby and provide a total of 136 licensed child care spaces.

To assist with child care planning, the Province has also provided funding to the UBCM to offer local governments grants to develop community-based child care needs assessments and strategies. The City applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from the UBCM in 2019 March. As detailed below, the CCRG has provided direction and support for the City's needs assessment and strategy development processes.

### **3.2 Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy**

The process to conduct the needs assessment and develop a child care strategy includes the following steps:

- development of a child care space inventory that identifies the number of existing spaces by type (group or home-based) and location;
- a stakeholder engagement process with parents (usage patterns, ease of finding child care), child care providers (ability to meet current and future needs, aspects of child care facilities) and other relevant stakeholders;
- a needs analysis including utilization rates, trends in usage, gaps in service and policy review of relevant documents; and,
- development of a strategy to address child care needs.

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To date, the CCRG has provided valuable advice in the design of online survey instruments for a parent and guardian survey and a child care provider survey, and have assisted staff in recruiting participants from vulnerable population groups to participate in focus groups<sup>2</sup>. CCRG members have also been instrumental in promoting and distributing links to the online surveys.

Although results on the parent and guardian survey are still being tabulated, a preliminary review of the results indicates a high level of child care need in the community with 75 percent of survey respondents saying it is somewhat difficult or very difficult to find child care. Seventy-five percent of survey respondents also said they had been on a waitlist for child care, with over 52.5 percent waiting more than a year to find a space. As discussed below, over the coming months, the CCRG will provide insights into the survey results and will help develop the strategy to address child care needs.

### **3.3 Child Care Month**

In recognition of the important role quality child care plays in the social and economic well being of the community, the CCRG celebrates child care month in May each year. As part of child care month 2019, the CCRG was involved in the following activities:

***Proclamation of Child Care Month*** – At the request of the CCRG, City Council proclaimed May 2019 as Child Care Month.

***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 2019 May 23. The event included an educational component which providers could use towards their annual professional development requirement. The event was well received and attended by 70 Burnaby child care providers from home-based, private and non-profit child care centres throughout Burnaby.

## **4.0 THE YEAR AHEAD – 2020**

### **4.1 Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy**

The CCRG’s main activity for 2020 will be to provide ongoing support and direction for the child care needs assessment and child care strategy development process. In particular, when the results of the engagement processes (e.g. surveys and focus groups) are compiled, the CCRG will provide assistance in analyzing the results and identifying gaps in service. It is also proposed that the CCRG help to organize and participate in one or two “Solutions” workshops with key stakeholders to identify actions to include in the Burnaby child care strategy. Workshop participants could include relevant City and School District staff, child care provider staff and elected representatives in Burnaby.

### **4.2 Celebration of Child Care Month**

In addition to the work noted above, the CCRG proposes to celebrate Child Care Month in May 2020 by:

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<sup>2</sup> The survey of parents and guardians was open from 2019 December 5 to 2020 January 17. 1,156 responses were received. Three focus groups with vulnerable or underserved populations have taken place with more planned. The child care provider survey is available online from 2020 February 3 to February 21.

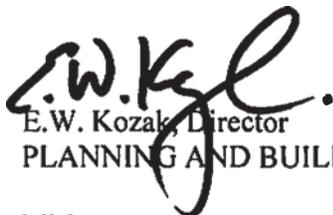
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- requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim child care month; and,
- working with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development (ECD) Table in sponsoring an appreciation event for Burnaby child care providers. The event will include a professional development 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 \$300 to assist with the activities of the Child Care Provider Appreciation event.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the CCRG's key activities in 2019. It also proposes a workplan for the CCRG for the year ahead. Specifically, the CCRG proposes to provide ongoing support and direction for the work involved to develop a child care needs assessment and strategy for Burnaby.

It is also recommended that the Committee request Council to approve an expenditure of \$300 from the 2020 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to support the activities of the Child Care Provider Appreciation event in 2020 May, as detailed in *Section 4.2* above.

  
E.W. Kozak, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa

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