

From: shawna harrison [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Clerks <Clerks@burnaby.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Puddle Jumpers Daycare

Dear Mayor Hurley and Council Members,

I write to you today as the owner/operator of Puddle Jumpers Daycare located at 4304 Parker Street in Burnaby where we have leased space from Willingdon Heights United Church for the past 24 years. Due to a significant rent increase we were forced to make the decision to cease operations effective August 31, 2021.

Being a resident and business owner in the North Burnaby area has been such an amazing gift. I look at my job as a gift because families have entrusted myself and my amazing staff to care for their most prized possession, their child. Children have been able to start at Puddle Jumpers when they are 2.5 and graduate from care at 12 years of age. These children and their parents are family, we have been family for 24+ years and want to continue to support the North Burnaby community.

We are completely devastated at the potential of not being able to provide care as of August 31, 2021 but we have been fortunate to find a potential new location to accommodate our school age children that attend Gilmore Community School and Kitchener Elementary. The new location is at Burnaby North Baptist Church 3977 Albert Street in North Burnaby. This new location does not come easy as I have been made aware of the challenges with lack of parking, no loading stall and also the church is not zoned for childcare. I do understand that these are big issues from the City perspective but am hoping that with your support and the support of council we can come up with a solution for our families.

We have done our best to relocate and accommodate all the children and families currently in our care at Puddle Jumpers at our 2 other existing Puddle Splashers non-profit childcare facilities. These centers are located at 7231 Frances Street and 510 Duncan Ave in Burnaby. While we were able to successfully move some of the younger children in our care to these locations, the school aged children are still lacking suitable spaces for childcare which falls into the Gilmore and Kitchener school catchment areas. Approximately 40 school aged children are still without care in their current school catchment area. If approved for childcare at the North Burnaby Baptist Church location we would operate under the Puddle Splashers Childcare umbrella, which is a non-profit society.

With the current state of childcare in BC and the promise of creating more childcare spaces my hope is that the City of Burnaby would look upon this situation as a necessity for the current families of Puddle Jumpers in the North Burnaby area and help us to continue to provide quality childcare to the families of our District.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Shawna Harrison,

Director,

Puddle Splashers Childcare Society

Owner / Operator, Puddle Jumpers Daycare
[REDACTED]