

June 18, 2021

Dear Mayor Mike Hurley and Council of city of Burnaby

Several months ago, I was notified by Puddle Jumper's owner Shawna Harrison that due to 100% increase in rent in the current location, Shawna has been left with no other choice but to close the daycare. Shawna has been working tirelessly to find a new location for our children to attend daycare. It has come to my attention that Shawna did in fact find a new location, but has run into some challenges regarding the parking situation. As you can imagine, this has been a disappointment for many of the children and families including my own family. I would like to share with you what this would mean to my family if the new daycare does not get approved. Both my partner and I work close to full time hours. My partner is in sales, and I am a Nurse. What this would mean is losing my part time line with VCH at Pender community center. I will be forced to go into a casual position and work weekends only, which also means losing income and medical and dental benefits to support my family.

For my daughter [REDACTED], This will mean losing many of her daycare friends and teachers. These are individuals who she loves and cares for tremendously.

At a broader level, what this means to the community is losing a nurse to take care of you, your family and those you love. This would mean an increase in workload for my colleagues, increasing the chances of burnout for them. As you may already be informed, we are experiencing a shortage of nurses province wide and in the last year alone, the increase in burnout has almost doubled among nurses, contributing to a further shortage of nurses in BC. Furthermore, I do imagine the parents who will be forced to leave their jobs due to lack of daycare will be women. In addition, the daycare teachers who will be losing their jobs are all women at Puddle Jumper's. In a time where we are striving for equality and equity, this not a good look for the city.

I would strongly advise you to reconsider approving the new location of the daycare as this would be in our children's, our families and our community's best interest.

Sincerely,

Maria Urquia  
Registered Nurse  
Vancouver Coastal Health