

TO: SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT: **CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE AND 2024 WORKPLAN**
PURPOSE: To provide an update on the activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2023 and propose a workplan for 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Child Care Resources Group workplan for 2024 as outlined in Section 3.2 of the report titled “Child Care Resources Group Update and 2024 Workplan” dated March 20, 2024 be endorsed; and

THAT an expenditure of \$1,000 from the 2024 Advisory Bodies and Boards budget be approved to support the Burnaby Child Care Provider Appreciation event in May 2024.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

This report aligns with the following Council-adopted policies:

- *Corporate Strategic Plan (2022);*
- *Child Care Action Plan (2021);*
- *Social Sustainability Strategy (2011); and*
- *Child Care Policy (2000).*

2.0 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 Community Care Facilities Licensing, the Burnaby School District, the Burnaby-New Westminster Child Care Resource and Referral Program, and City staff.

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 prepares update reports on its activities for the Social Planning Committee and Council. This report provides an overview of activities in 2023 and proposes a work plan for the CCRG for 2024.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2023

The main activities of the CCRG in 2023 included reviewing provincial child care policy, providing advice on draft child care design principles for the City and celebrating child care month in May.

3.1.1 Policy Review

In 2023, the CCRG continued to provide advice and insights into provincial and federal child care policy. In 2018, the Province initiated ChildCareBC, a 10-year plan to create a universal child care system in BC and allocated \$5.2 billion from 2018 to 2025 towards implementation. More recently, the Province and federal government signed the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in 2021. Through the Agreement, the federal government will provide \$3.2 billion in funding to the Province over the period of 2021 to 2025. The combined provincial and federal funding focuses on three key elements: 1) creation of new spaces; 2) fee reductions for parents (e.g. providing parents with, on average, \$10/day licensed care for children under six years old within the five year period); and 3) recruitment and retention of the child care workforce.

In relation to child care policy, the CCRG's work included meeting with Ministry of Education and Child Care staff to discuss and provide feedback on the operational components of the 10-year plan (e.g. fee reductions, implementation of \$10/day sites and staff recruitment and retention). The CCRG also met with the Minister of State for Child Care and a representative of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC regarding the roll-out of the 10-year provincial plan.

3.1.2 Draft Child Care Design Principles

Considerable research indicates that a well-designed child care space is critical to supporting the healthy development of children under five. In alignment with the Burnaby Child Care Action Plan, and in consideration of anticipated new design criteria for new spaces funded by the Province, the CCRG provided advice to City staff on design principles to support the creation of quality child care spaces in new centres that receive provincial funding and/or direct City support. A draft of the child care design principles for the City will be presented to the Committee and Council in spring 2024.

3.1.3 Child Care Month

In recognition of the important role quality child care plays in the social and economic well being of our community, the CCRG celebrates child care month in May each year. Activities include the Child Care Provider Appreciation event for child care providers from home-based, private and non-profit child care centres throughout Burnaby. In 2023, the City provided funding to support an in-person event that included a dinner, greetings from Councillor Santiago on behalf of Council, and a professional development presentation. Over 90 providers from across Burnaby attended. Council also proclaimed May as Child Care Month.

3.2 2024 WORKPLAN

In 2024, the CCRG will continue to provide advice and guidance on the implementation of the Province's 10-year plan and the City's Child Care Action Plan. Actions will include:

- reviewing a final draft of the City's child care design principles;
- offering shared learning (professional development) on staff recruitment and retention strategies; and
- reviewing/updating the CCRG's Terms of Reference, last updated in September 2009 (Action 7.4.10 in the Child Care Action Plan).

The CCRG will also work with partners to celebrate Child Care Month in May by supporting the Child Care Provider Appreciation event on May 23, 2024 at the Burnaby Neighbourhood House – South House. The event will be open to all in-home, private and non-profit child care providers in Burnaby and include a dinner and professional development. To support this event, it is proposed that Council approve an expenditure of \$1,000 to assist with expenses for this event.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is recommended that an expenditure of \$1,000 from the 2024 Advisory Bodies and Boards budget be approved to support the Burnaby Child Care Provider Appreciation event in May 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Garnett, for E.W Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Margaret Manifold, Planner 3, and reviewed by Wendy Tse, Director Community Planning, and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development.