



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: November 15, 2021
Submitted by: Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division
Subject: City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan

Purpose

To present the City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan to Council for endorsement.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT the City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan be endorsed as recommended in the report dated November 15, 2021 from the Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan.

Background

In 2019, The City of Port Moody received a \$25,000 grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to undertake an assessment to identify child care needs and gaps in Port Moody, and to create an action plan to improve access to child care.

As child care providers, non-profit operators, and related stakeholders are integrated throughout the Tri-Cities Region, the City of Port Moody partnered with the Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam to coordinate the child care project activities. To assist with this process, the Tri-Cities municipalities procured Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC BC) to undertake the assessment, lead public engagement, and develop the individual action plans for each of the municipalities. This work resulted in the City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan (**Attachment 1**).

Discussion

Report Findings

The City's Child Care Action Plan was informed both by background research compiled by the SPARC BC along with engaging with parents and stakeholders. Engagement activities included:

- Two online surveys. One for parents with 305 responses from Port Moody residents, and one for child care providers with 115 responses from across the Tri-Cities;
- Interviews with 16 key informants, nine child care providers, and eight City staff;

- Two workshops. The first workshop had 28 participants from the three Cities, School District 43, the Provincial government, and not-for-profits. The second workshop also had 28 participants, most of whom were municipal and School District 43 elected officials and senior staff.

Using data specific to Port Moody, SPARC BC undertook an analysis of existing child care spaces, resources, and gaps to develop a comprehensive picture of the City's current child care needs. Findings include the following:

- The City of Port Moody has 1,088 child care spaces, or 20.9 spaces for every 100 children from birth to 12 years of age. By comparison, Metro Vancouver has 18.6 child care spaces for every 100 children, British Columbia has 18.4, and Canada has 27.2;
- Average monthly fees in Port Moody for group care are \$950 for infants, \$872 for toddlers, \$767 for 3-5 years old, and \$425 for school age children; and,
- 74% of child care operators reported a waitlist at their facility. Of those 53 respondents who shared average wait times, 13% reported 0-3 months, 15% reported 4-6 months, 38% 7-12 months, and 34% more than a year;

The Port Moody Needs Assessment is included as Appendix C (p.46) in the Child Care Action Plan.

Recommended Actions

The goal of City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan is for the City to develop a strong, committed, and comprehensive Child Care Policy. To achieve this, SPARC BC recommended four strategic directions that reflect the goal of the Child Care Action Plan, the needs articulated through the consultants' research, and feedback received during engagement. These directions are:

- Increase Accessibility;
- Improve Affordability;
- Focus on Quality Child Care; and,
- Develop Collaboration and Partnerships.

The first three strategic directions were selected to align with Provincial investments in child care. Developing collaboration and partnerships was a fourth direction created to recognize the important role that local government and community stakeholders have in achieving Port Moody's child care goal.

In total, these four strategic directions have 31 recommended actions. Included in the actions are the following targets for the three age cohorts to guide future planning in creating additional child care spaces over the next 10 years:

- Infant/Toddlers (under 3 years): 33 spaces per 100 children (currently 14.6 / 100 children);
- Preschoolers (3 to 5 years): 74 spaces per 100 children (currently 32.1 / 100 children); and,

- School Aged Children (6 to 9 years): 49 spaces per 100 children (currently 22.2 / 100 children).

To meet this target, the City will need to create an additional 1,070 child care spaces by 2030¹.

Implementation of the City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan

Since the City's Child Care Action Plan was finalized, staff have been working on several child care initiatives to increase child care spaces in the City, and to implement some of the suggested actions in the Plan. At the October 13, 2020 Closed Council Meeting, Council endorsed staff's recommended actions on pursuing Provincial funding to renovate part of Westhill Community Centre for a child care centre with 37 spaces:

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THAT staff be directed to submit an application to the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, November 2020 intake for Westhill Centre, based on Option 2 as presented in the Westhill Daycare Feasibility Study package from CORE, as submitted in the report dated February 10, 2020 from the Community Services Department – Facilities Division;

AND THAT the City commit to funding the portion of the Westhill Community Centre renovation not covered by the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund;

AND THAT the \$520,000 City portion of the project budget be forwarded to the Finance Committee October 20, 2020 meeting to identify a funding source;

AND THAT this resolution and the memo dated September 25, 2020 from the Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding Follow-Up to the Westhill Centre – Childcare Feasibility Assessment, including all attachments, be publicly released.

While the City's application met Provincial requirements for the 2021 intake, it was not selected due to a lack of funds for all applications. However, School District 43 (SD43) did receive funding to create 60 licensed child care spaces, including up to 40 infant/toddler spaces and up to 20 spaces for school-aged children, at the new Moody Elementary School. Staff has since resubmitted the Westhill Child Care Centre application for the 2022 intake for consideration.

The Province has continued to prioritize Childcare BC, its ten-year plan to provide universal, affordable, accessible, quality, and inclusive child care to every family that wants or needs it, with the goal of no family paying more than \$10 a day for licensed childcare when fully implemented. Having signed a bilateral agreement with the federal government in 2021, securing \$3.2 billion in funds for child care, it is anticipated that the Province will continue to look for opportunities to increase the number of child care spaces in the near future.

¹ Based on BC Stats 2030 population projections.

Staff have also focused on securing additional child care spaces through rezoning and OCP amendment applications. Current applications and recently approved projects could account for an additional 438 child care spaces, as shown in Table 1. As part of the City's Child Care Action Plan, staff will continue to advocate for the voluntary inclusion of child care spaces in all future rezoning and OCP amendment applications.

Table 1

City of Port Moody – Proposed Child Care Spaces		
	Project Name	Number of Child Care Spaces
Recently Approved Spaces	2101 Clarke St	79
	Moody Elementary School	60
Applications	3101, 3103/3103A St Johns St	49
	Coronation Park OCP Amendment	120
	Westhill Child Care Centre	37
	Woodland Park OCP Amendment	93
Total Child Care Spaces		438

Next Steps

Through the creation of the Child Care Action Plan, staff recommend prioritizing the following actions for the implementation in 2022:

- Identify child care as a priority for Community Amenity Contributions, Density Bonusing, Capital Planning;
- Confirm a set of principles, values, and criteria or guidelines (consistent with the over-arching Child Care Strategy recommended for the City) that will guide the City's decisions when developing child care in civic spaces or when securing child care spaces through CACs and other means; and,
- Access Provincial Capital funding to build child care spaces and develop a structured partnership with the Province to replicate the process for multiple programs and sites.

Staff will also continue to work with the Tri-Cities Child Care Working Group, Fraser Health, and SD43 to develop a strong, committed, and comprehensive child care policy, and to look for opportunities to create spaces to meet the City's child care space targets.

A report will be submitted annually to Council to measure the City's progress on implementing the Child Care Action Plan.

Other Option(s)

1. THAT the City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan be amended as directed by Council.
2. THAT the City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan be received for information.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Costs associated with the development of the City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan were covered by the \$25,000 grant received from UBCM.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or civic engagement initiatives associated with the recommendations of this report at this time.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

The recommendation in this report aligns with the following Council Strategic Objectives:

- Ensure plans and programs take into account the diverse needs of residents and factors related to age and other demographics such as income, languages, housing types, and abilities; and,
- Develop tools to help us plan and prepare for the future.

Attachment(s)

1. City of Port Moody – Child Care Action Plan.

Report Author

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	City of Port Moody – Child Care Action Plan.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - City of Port Moody Child Care Action Plan.PDF
Final Approval Date:	Nov 29, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning - Nov 25, 2021 - 5:10 PM

Kate Zanon, General Manager of Community Development - Nov 26, 2021 - 1:09 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Nov 26, 2021 - 1:47 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Nov 26, 2021 - 3:22 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Nov 26, 2021 - 7:09 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Nov 29, 2021 - 7:57 AM