



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office
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January 18, 2021

The Honourable Mitzi Dean, M.L.A.
Minister of Children
& Family Development
PO Box 9057 STN Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

VIA EMAIL: MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Child Care Inventory and Action Plan

On January 11, 2021, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council direct Legislative Services staff to work with the Mayor to send correspondence on Council's behalf as listed as actions in the report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services dated November 30, 2020 as follows:

Write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, supporting a revision to the British Columbia Child Care Regulations, including:

- *Implementing the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre proposal that registered license-not-required facilities be allowed to care for three children or a sibling group, in order to provide a stronger incentive for facilities to register, thereby creating greater oversight and support for child care providers; and*
- *Updating the language in the Child Care Licensing Regulations to describe children with extra support needs, and in the interim, work with the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry and ECE training providers to update the terms used in their certificate programs, to remove the term 'special needs'."*

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. A copy of the report and meeting minutes are attached for information.

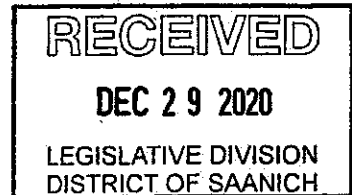
Yours truly,


Fred Haynes
Mayor
Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Services



The Corporation of the District of Saanich



Report

To: Mayor and Council
From: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Date: 11/30/2020
Subject: Report on Child Care Inventory and Action Plan – Advocacy Section

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report and take the described action to forward the recommendations made within the Saanich Peninsula Child Care Inventory and Action Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information gathered from the community during the consultative process that resulted in the Saanich Child Care Inventory and Action Plan. Specifically, the information contained within "Section IV. Advocacy", makes recommendations that cannot be addressed by municipal governments, but rather require action by other orders of government.

BACKGROUND

In a report from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services dated September 16, 2020, Council received for information the Saanich Peninsula Child Care Inventory and Action Plan. Upon hearing the presentation by staff and consultants, Council made the following motions:

MOVED by Councillor Chambers and Seconded by Councillor Brice: "That Council receive for information the Saanich Peninsula Child Care Inventory and Action Plan and forward it to the Strategic Planning process for consideration."

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Chambers: "That Council direct staff to bring forward a report on the potential to advance the advocacy items outlined in the consultant's report."

CARRIED

DISCUSSION

District of Saanich Child Care Inventory and Action Plan - Section IV. Advocacy (p. 52)
Identify ways to leverage additional support by writing letters and calling upon other orders of government to take action.

There are a number of advocacy items identified in the Child Care Inventory and Action Plan. While some can be achieved by virtue of a letter, others will take more time and actions by other. Some of the items may have unintended consequences and require further exploration and discussion by Council.

Based on the above, staff have evaluated the advocacy recommendations and provided Council with the following recommended actions:

Government of BC	
Recommendation	Action
14. Consider endorsing the \$10aDay Child Care Plan, as Oak Bay and Victoria have done.	Refer to Council Strategic Planning process for potential budget implications.
School Districts	
Recommendation	Action
15. Write a letter to SD 63 & 61, copying the Minister of Education, encouraging the school districts to continue to develop child care on school district land, including completing an inventory of land where there are not active school sites to determine if child care could be sited there.	Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.
Capital Regional District	
Recommendation	Action
16. Submit a joint motion to the Capital Regional District Board, supporting the endorsement of the \$10aDay Child Care Plan.	If approved during Council Strategic Planning process (see Recommendation 14), request Legislative Services to work with the Oak Bay and City of Victoria to create a draft motion.
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training	
Recommendation	Action
17. Write a letter to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training supporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a bridging program for Early Childhood Educators trained outside of BC (both internationally and within Canada) to fast track their certification within BC: 	Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The publishing of an annual transfer guide for Early Childhood Educators to simplify the provision of transfer credit between BC Early Childhood training providers, including both public and private institutions; • The continued funding of the development of new early childhood educator training programs which provide this education more accessibly to students, through programs such as part-time, workforce integrated learning, distance learning, and intensive programs; • The continued funding of the development and delivery of cohort training to increase the numbers of Indigenous Early childhood Educators; and • An increase in staff resources for the BC Early Childhood Registry. The Government of BC could improve the processing times for Early Childhood Educators trained in other parts of Canada to become certified in BC by increasing staff resources for the registry. The delay in processing times is discouraging to ECEs who move to BC to recertify here. 	
Ministry of Agriculture	
Recommendation	Action
18. Write a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture, copying the Ministry of Education, asking them to clarify with the Agricultural Land Commission that child care can be seen as an extension of school use for schools sited in the Agricultural Land Reserve.	Refer to Council Strategic Planning process for land use implications.
Ministry of Children and Family Development	
Recommendation	Action
19. Write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development advocating for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant increase to base operational subsidies for child care facilities, in order to make wage increases and improved working conditions possible for early childhood educators. In particular, the Province should explore options to increase operational subsidy for care for children under 30 months, where rations and training make it very difficult to break even; • The implementation of a competitive, publicly funded Early Childhood Education Provincial 	Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.

<p>Wage Grid, as proposed by the Early Childhood Educators of BC and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in funding for the Supported Child Development Program, in recognition of the increased need of children with extra support needs. 	
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>20. Write a letter encouraging the Ministry of Children and Family Development Child Care Capital Program to make it easier for organizations seeking to apply for Child Care New Spaces Funds by publicly sharing designs of child care facilities incorporated into various setting, such as modular buildings and child care incorporated into office spaces.</p>	<p>Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>21. Write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, copying the BC Early Childhood Registry, encouraging them to improve the numbers of people who progress from their Early Childhood Education Assistant certificate to becoming Early Childhood Educators by creating a time limit on the numbers of years an individual can be certified as an Early Childhood Education Assistant.</p>	<p>Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>22. Write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, supporting a revision to the BC Child Care Regulations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre proposal that registered license-not-required facilities be allowed to care for three children or a sibling group, in order to provide a stronger incentive for facilities to register, thereby creating greater oversight and support for child care providers; and, • Updating the language in the Child Care Licensing Regulations to describe children with extra support needs, and in the interim, work with the Early Childhood Educator Registry and Early Childhood Education training providers to update the terms used in their certificate programs, to remove the term "special needs". 	<p>Refer to Council Strategic Planning process for Bylaw implications.</p>
<p>Ministry of Citizen's Services</p>	
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Action</p>

23. Write a letter to the Ministry of Citizen's Services, encouraging the Government of BC to lead by example and incorporate child care facilities into as many of their publicly owned buildings as possible.	Refer to Council Strategic Planning process for District implications.
Ministry of Health	
Recommendation	Action
24. Write a letter to the Ministry of Health, encouraging the creation of a pilot for licensed outdoor based child care programs.	Refer to Council Strategic Planning process for District implications.
25. Write a letter to the Ministry of Health, copying Island Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, asking them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish an annual report for each regional district across BC, with the ratio of licensed child care spaces to numbers of children 0-12 years old; and, • Resolve the data discrepancies between the BC Child Care Map maintained by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the inventory of licensed child care spaces maintained by the Health Authorities. 	Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.
South Island Prosperity Partnership	
Recommendation	Action
26. Present child care inventory and action plan findings to the South Island Prosperity Partnership, and ask them to consider including an annual indicator on the ratio of licensed child care spaces per child 0-12 years old, using data from Island Health Child Care Licensing.	Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.
Union of BC Municipalities	
Recommendation	Action
27. Submit a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities stating that: <p><i>Whereas affordable, quality childcare provides the foundation for lifelong success, and benefits to society overall, and childcare is important for the economy and quality of life for British Columbians;</i></p> <p><i>And whereas one of the greatest barriers to increasing childcare spaces is the lack of qualified Early Childhood Educators;</i></p>	Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.

<p><i>Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM support the Early Childhood Educators of BC and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates proposal to implement a competitive, publicly funded Early Childhood Education Provincial Wage Grid, made possible by a significant increase in operation subsidies for child care facilities, as a step towards their plan for a universal child care system.</i></p>	
<p>Recommendation</p> <p>28. Submit a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities stating that:</p> <p><i>Whereas the Supported Child Development community-based program funded by the Ministry of Children and Development provides extremely valuable assistance for families of children with extra support needs to access inclusive child care;</i></p> <p><i>And whereas the funding for this program is inadequate to meet family needs, resulting in years-long waitlists; Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the Supported Child Development funding.</i></p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Request Legislative Services to work with the Mayor to send a letter on Council's behalf.</p>

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

To be determined during Council Strategic Planning Process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATONS

Many of the recommendations in the District of Saanich Child Care Inventory and Action Plan only require staff time to draft a formal letter, and the consideration and endorsement from Saanich Council.

Other items are more complex and could have secondary planning or financial effects. Those items have been referred for more robust consideration during Council Strategic Planning process.

CONCLUSIONS


The Child Care Inventory and Action Plan contains many progressive, systemic recommendations that remove barriers and support the creation of new child care spaces and support already existing businesses.

Increasing the inventory of child care spaces available to working families certainly has a positive impact on the livability of this community. However, altering the structures that govern child care facilities has the potential to cause secondary impacts to neighbourhoods and businesses alike. Council must carefully consider all angles, and call upon subject matter experts, before choosing a direction on new space development for Saanich.

Prepared by


Cristina Caravaca
Senior Manager of Community Services


Approved by


Suzanne Samborski
Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

c. Angila Bains, Manager of Legislative Services

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services



 Paul Thorkelsson
Chief Administrative Officer

 Councillor Taylor returned to the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

2310-40
 Child Care
 Inventory and
 Action Plan

CHILD CARE INVENTORY AND ACTION PLAN – ADVOCACY SECTION

Report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services dated November 30, 2020 recommending that Council receive the report for information and direct staff to take action on the items listed in the report which are identified within the Saanich Peninsula Child Care Inventory and Action Plan under Section IV – Advocacy.

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Chambers: “That Council direct Legislative Services staff to work with the Mayor to send correspondence on Council’s behalf as listed as actions in the report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services dated November 30, 2020 as follows:

<p><u>Government of BC</u> 14. Write a letter to the Province endorsing the \$10 a day Child Care Plan, as Oak Bay and Victoria have done.</p>
<p><u>School Districts</u> 15. Write a letter to School District 61 & 63, copying the Minister of Education, encouraging the school districts to continue to develop child care on school district land, including completing an inventory of land where there are not active school sites to determine if child care could be sited there.</p>
<p><u>Capital Regional District</u> 16. Write a letter to Oak Bay and Victoria requesting a joint motion to the Capital Regional District Board, supporting the endorsement of the \$10 a day Child Care Plan.</p>
<p><u>Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training</u> 17. Write a letter to the Ministry supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a bridging program for Early Childhood Educators (ECE) trained outside of BC (both internationally and within Canada) to fast track their certification within BC; • The publishing of an annual transfer guide for ECEs to simplify the provision of transfer credit between BC Early Childhood training providers, including both public and private institutions; • The continued funding of the development of new ECE training programs which provide this education more accessible to students, through programs such as part-time, workforce integrated learning, distance learning, and intensive programs; • The continued funding of the development and delivery of cohort training to increase the numbers of Indigenous ECEs; and • An increase in staff resources for the BC Early Childhood Registry. The Government of BC could improve processing times for ECEs trained in other parts of Canada to become certified in BC by increasing staff resources for the registry. The delay in processing times is discouraging to ECEs who move to BC to recertify here.
<p><u>Ministry of Agriculture</u> 18. Write a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture, copying the Ministry of Education, asking them to clarify with the Agricultural Land Commission that child care can be seen as an extension of school use for schools sited in the Agricultural Land Reserve.</p>

Ministry of Children and Family Development

19. Write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development advocating for:

- A significant increase to base operational subsidies for child care facilities, in order to make wage increases and improved working conditions possible for ECEs. In particular, the Province should explore options to increase operational subsidy for care for children under 30 months, where rations and training make it very difficult to break even;
- The implementation of a competitive, publicly funded ECE Provincial Wage Grid, as proposed by the ECEs of BC and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates; and
- An increase in funding for the Supported Child Development Program, in recognition of the increased need of children with extra support needs.

20. Write a letter encouraging the Ministry of Children and Family Development Child Care Capital Program to make it easier for organizations seeking to apply for Child Care New Spaces Funds by publicly sharing designs of child care facilities incorporated into various setting, such as modular buildings and child care incorporated into office spaces.

21. Write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, copying the BC Early Childhood Registry, encouraging them to improve the numbers of people who progress from their ECE Assistant certificate to becoming ECEs by creating a time limit on the numbers of years an individual can be certified as an ECE Assistant.

22. Write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, supporting a revision to the BC Child Care Regulations, including:

- Implementing the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre proposal that registered license-not-required facilities be allowed to care for three children or a sibling group, in order to provide a stronger incentive for facilities to register, thereby creating greater oversight and support for child care providers; and
- Updating the language in the Child Care Licensing Regulations to describe children with extra support needs, and in the interim, work with the ECE Registry and ECE training providers to update the terms used in their certificate programs, to remove the term "special needs".

Ministry of Citizen's Services

23. Write a letter to the Ministry of Citizen's Services, encouraging the Government of BC to lead by example, and incorporate child care facilities into as many of their publicly owned buildings as possible.

Ministry of Health

24. Write a letter to the Ministry of Health encouraging the creation of a pilot for licensed outdoor based child care programs.

25. Write a letter to the Ministry of Health, copying Island Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development asking them to:

- Publish an annual report for each regional district across BC, with the ratio of licensed child care spaces to numbers of children 0-2 years old; and
- Resolve the data discrepancies between the BC Child Care Map maintained by the Ministry of Children and Development and the inventory of licensed child care spaces maintained by the Health Authorities.

South Island Prosperity Partnership

26. Present child care inventory and action plan findings to the South Island Prosperity Partnership, and write a letter asking them to consider including an annual indicator on the ration of licensed child care spaces per child 0-2 years old, using data from Island Health Child Care Licensing.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)

27. Submit a resolution to the UBCM stating that:

WHEREAS affordable, quality child care provides the foundation for lifelong success and benefits to society overall, and child care is important for the economy and quality of life for British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS one of the greatest barriers to increasing child care spaces is the lack of qualified Early Childhood Educators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support this Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates' proposal to implement a competitive, publicly funded Early Childhood Education Provincial Wage Grid, made possible by a significant increase in operation subsidies for child care facilities, as a step towards their plan for a universal child care system.

28. Submit a resolution to the UBCM stating that:

WHEREAS the Supported Child Development community-based program funded by the Ministry of Children and Development provides extremely valuable assistance for families of children with extra support needs to access inclusive child care;

AND WHEREAS the funding for this program is inadequate to meet family needs resulting in years-long waitlists;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to increase the Supported Child Development funding."

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- It is appropriate to move forward with the action pieces.
- The Provincial Government will do its own consultation process.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Senior Manager, Community Services exited the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

2150-20
Panama Flats
Concept Plan

PANAMA FLATS CONCEPT PLAN

Report of the Director of Building, Bylaw, Licensing and Legal Services dated December 11, 2020 recommending that Council receive the report for information.

****The item was postponed to the February 22, 2021 Council meeting to allow for further public input.****