



Burnaby Child Care Policy

DEFINITION

“ . . . child care is a comprehensive service to children and their families that supplements the care that children receive from their families. As a supplement to family care, professional child care is in no way a substitute for such care nor a competitor for the role of parents in the upbringing of their children. To some extent, professional child care represents a version of the extended family, one which is compatible with and adapted to the social realities of the modern world.”¹

CHILD CARE VISION

The City of Burnaby is committed to:

- a) assisting with the creation of a comprehensive and inclusive child care system in Burnaby which offers a range of child care options and responds to the diverse groups within the community, including parents staying home to care for their children;
- b) supporting families and children in their search for child care options which best suit their personal circumstances; and
- c) working with the School Board, government ministries, child care providers, community service providers, and others in pursuing the City’s child care objectives.

POLICY ELEMENTS

1. Support Role

Through provision of information and other appropriate assistance, the City supports existing and prospective Burnaby child care providers, the Simon Fraser Health Region, Burnaby/New Westminister Child Care Resource and Referral and other individuals and organizations involved with the planning or provision of child care in Burnaby.

¹ Caldwell and Hilliard, “What is Quality Child Care.”Quoted in “Showing We Care”, Report of the Provincial Task Force on Child Care, 1991, p.1.

2. Child Care Resources Group and Community Consultation

The City is committed to obtaining the views of Burnaby parents, child care providers, and the broader community concerning child care issues and needs by:

- a) maintaining the Child Care Resources Group as a subcommittee of the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee, confirming its mandate to:
 - i) serve as an advisory body to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee on child care matters,
 - ii) assist with development of child care policies, services, and programs, and
 - iii) act as an advocate for child care in the city; and
- b) requesting the Child Care Resources Group to assist with implementation of the Burnaby Child Care Policy by:
 - i) monitoring implementation of the Policy,
 - ii) monitoring supply and demand for child care in Burnaby,
 - iii) helping the City to obtain the views of child care providers, parents, and the broader community on child care issues, upon request of the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee or Council, and
 - iv) informing the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee of emerging child care needs and issues, and providing the Committee with periodic update reports on the group's key activities and work program proposals.

3. Progressive Employer

The City is committed to acting as a progressive employer regarding child care by:

- a) examining its personnel practices and, where possible, making adjustments to help employees balance their responsibilities to work and family;
- b) exploring other options for assisting City employees in meeting their child care needs, including the possible future establishment of child care facilities for use by staff; and
- c) encouraging other major employers in Burnaby to help address their employees' child care needs through such means as establishment of workplace child care facilities or introduction of "family-friendly" policies.

4. Improving Availability, Accessibility, and Affordability

The City will work to improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of child care by:

- a) providing appropriate and sufficient opportunities for the establishment of child care facilities within the context of the Official Community Plan, community plans, Burnaby Zoning bylaw, and other City regulations;
- b) in the rezoning process for selected major residential, commercial, industrial, or mixed use developments, requesting the applicants to help to address the child care needs generated by the proposed developments by:
 - i) constructing child care facilities on or near the developments, or
 - ii) submitting alternative plans for addressing child care needs generated from their developments;
- c) for qualifying projects in Burnaby's town centre areas, and in accordance with Section 6.22 of the Zoning Bylaw, offering developers additional or "bonused" density in exchange for child care facilities or other appropriate amenities to be planned in conjunction with their developments;
- d) for child care facilities to which the City gains title through Policies 4.b and c, facilitating affordable, high quality, and accessible care by:
 - i) seeking experienced and qualified non-profit operators who have the ability and desire to provide services to a diverse clientele (including those with additional needs and English as a second language),
 - ii) working closely with the developers, project architects, and operators in planning and designing the facilities, and
 - iii) making the space available to operators on a rent-free basis;
- e) permitting sponsors of workplace child care centres to accommodate the general public, in addition to employees, in their centres;
- f) considering the allocation of space within future recreation centres and park developments, as feasible and appropriate, for the establishment of non-profit child care centres and programs;
- g) maintaining and updating the Child Care Planning Resource Package, an information resource geared to helping groups and individuals in planning child care facilities in Burnaby;
- h) through the Parks & Recreation Department, and in consultation with Burnaby youths, families, school-age child care providers, and other agencies, exploring development of recreation programs which are accessible to children enrolled in school-age child care programs;

- i) granting permissive exemptions from property taxation to eligible non-profit child care facilities, as authorized under the Municipal Act;
- j) considering the lease of appropriate City-owned facilities and sites for non-profit child care operations; and
- k) working with the Provincial and Federal governments, child care providers, the business community, and others to identify innovative ways to reduce the costs of child care development and operation.

5. Promotion of Quality Child Care

The City is committed to promoting quality child care services by:

- a) maintaining a close working relationship with the Community Care Facilities Licensing Section of the Simon Fraser Health Region, involving such activities as:
 - i) providing Zoning and other pertinent information related to child care licensing applications,
 - ii) consulting on child care policy and regulatory issues of mutual concern, and
 - iii) participating in joint planning efforts on child care matters; and
- b) supporting efforts of Burnaby/New Westminster Child Care Resource and Referral through such means as:
 - i) providing a lease grant and making space available to the agency at the Burnaby Heights Community Resource Centre,
 - ii) providing the agency with information and other assistance, as appropriate, and
 - iii) collaborating on matters of mutual concern.

6. Child Care Development Funds

The City is committed to pursuing funds to assist with the capital costs of future child care developments by:

- a) continuing to urge the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the Union of BC Municipalities, to amend the Municipal Act to extend the application of Development Cost Charges to child care facilities and other social amenities; and
- b) establishing a dedicated Child Care Development Fund for depositing the child care portion of future development cost charge receipts, upon the Province expanding the Development Cost Charge legislation.

7. School Board Liaison

The City acknowledges the School Board for its long standing support of child care in Burnaby and encourages the Board to continue serving as an equal partner in the implementation of the Child Care Policy by:

- a) working with the City in identifying Burnaby neighbourhoods which require child care facilities;
- b) providing space in school facilities or on school grounds for child care programs, as need dictates and space and funding allow;
- c) working with the Province, in conjunction with the City, to secure dedicated child care space in new school construction or major renovations to existing schools;
- d) allowing students to attend school in catchment areas in which they are enrolled in school-age child care programs, provided that sufficient space is available and the school can accommodate the student's educational program needs; and
- e) seeking ways and means to provide child care services for young parents who wish to complete their secondary school education.

8. Recommending to Other Public Agencies

The City will, on an ongoing basis, make recommendations to other levels of government and public agencies to improve child care services, programs, and policies by:

- a) seeking funding from senior governments and other sources to address Burnaby's child care needs;
- b) continuing to request the Federal Government to strengthen the fiscal incentives and support for families and child care providers, and to introduce a National Child Care Strategy;
- c) monitoring implementation of Provincial child care initiatives, providing comments and assistance to the Provincial Government, as appropriate;
- d) supporting and participating with the GVRD or other Lower Mainland municipalities in initiatives which are compatible with the City Child Care Policy; and
- e) requesting the Provincial Government to establish and implement a comprehensive, long term plan for child care in BC.