

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY  
COMMUNITY ISSUES & SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND ALDERMEN

1991 February 28

RE: B.C. HYDRO'S CASH OFFER TO ENHANCE CHILD CARE  
SERVICES IN THE EDMONDS AREA

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council consider the options outlined in Section 3.0 of this report as the basis of making a response to B.C. Hydro's offer to contribute \$250,000 towards child care initiatives in the Edmonds area and, pending its decision, direct staff regarding appropriate actions.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1991 February 18, Council received a report responding to a request for further information on several issues related to the rezoning of the proposed B.C. Hydro headquarters complex (RZ #36/90). Arising from the discussion, Council referred one matter to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee, asking the Committee to examine whether the cash offer of \$250,000 from Hydro would be sufficient for establishing and promoting a long term child care facility in the Edmonds area.

The Community Issues & Social Planning Committee addressed the issue at its February 27 meeting. Mr. David Shipman and Mr. Keith Mitchell appeared as a delegation on behalf of B.C. Hydro at the meeting. The options identified by the Committee are presented below for Council's consideration..

2.0 DISCUSSION RE: SUFFICIENCY OF HYDRO'S CASH OFFER

At the outset of the Committee's February 27 meeting, the representatives of B.C. Hydro explained that the \$250,000 cash offer was in no way intended to fund development of a child care centre. Rather, the money was offered on an ad hoc basis, with the intent of helping the Municipality address local child care concerns. It was also pointed out that the cash offer was in addition to Hydro's commitment to provide a 37 space child care facility in the second phase of project development. As well, the Hydro representatives explained at some length the corporate difficulties that B.C. Hydro would face in providing on site child care facilities for their Burnaby employees.

With the foregoing as context, the Committee considered two options for responding to Hydro's cash offer: a) accepting the cash offer and setting up a Municipal child care reserve account, and b) seeking the donation of a site from Hydro, in addition to the cash offer, with the aim of developing a child care facility. These options are discussed in the section below.

3.0 OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO HYDRO'S OFFER

Option 1 - Accept the cash offer and establish a reserve account through which various Municipal child care initiatives could be funded.

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Under this scenario, the Municipality would establish a separate reserve account for child care purposes. The \$250,000 from Hydro would serve as the initial contribution to the account. The funds could be used for various child care initiatives, including:

- grants to existing and newly starting child care operations,
- retention of a consultant to assist with development of a Municipal Child Care Policy and Implementation Strategy,
- the first contribution to a fund which, when additional monies are raised, would be used for development of a child care facility.

The funds could be supplemented through acceptance of other "voluntary" cash contributions from developers who wish to support child care but do not wish to establish facilities within their own developments. Before pursuing this approach, of course, consideration would need to be given to the desirability of establishing such a "cash in lieu" policy.

Option 2 - Seek a site in addition to the cash offer with the aim of establishing a child care centre.

As noted, \$250,000 would not be a sufficient amount for the site acquisition, construction, and equipping of a child care centre. If the \$250,000 could be augmented by a donated site, however, it is possible (but not guaranteed) that a child care facility could be developed with these funds.

B.C. Hydro owns a number of properties in the vicinity of its proposed corporate headquarters. If the objective is to establish a child care facility, one approach may be to ask Hydro to provide one of its sites in addition to its \$250,000 cash offer. A proposal call could be held to select a non-profit operator for the centre. The operator should be selected at an early stage in order that operational staff could contribute to the facility's planning and design.

If Hydro agreed to make a site available, it would seem reasonable to reserve a portion of the child care spaces created for Hydro employees.

4.0 CONCLUSION

To conclude, the \$250,000 cash offer from B.C. Hydro would not be sufficient and, as Hydro has indicated, was not intended to cover the costs of site acquisition, construction, and equipment for a child care facility. The \$250,000 constitutes an additional offer from the original community oriented child care provisions to be included in phase 2 of Hydro's development.

The option of accepting the cash offer and establishing a child care reserve account would be relatively simple. The funds could be used for various child care initiatives that the Municipality chooses to pursue.

The other option of seeking a site from B.C. Hydro, in addition to the cash offer would be more problematic, but offers greater potential benefits. If B.C. Hydro contributed a site, in addition to its cash offer, some possibility exists that a child care centre could be established. This would need to be subject of a more detailed review, however. It should be noted that the Municipality would need to facilitate development of the facility under this scenario. It should also be noted that even with the donation of a site, additional funds might be required and would have to be provided from other sources.

No discussions have occurred with B.C. Hydro on whether the corporation would be prepared to supplement its cash offer by providing a site for a child care centre. Pursuit of this approach could cause delays in the rezoning process. B.C. Hydro has indicated that it wishes to complete the rezoning process and commence construction at an early date.

The foregoing options are offered for Council's consideration in assessing the adequacy of B.C. Hydro's cash offer for child care resources in the Edmonds area. After a decision has been made on a response to the offer, staff will pursue any necessary implementation actions as directed by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman E. Nikolai  
Chairman

Alderman J. Young  
Member

Alderman D. Lawson  
Member

Alderman D. Evans  
Member

Alderman C. Redman  
Member

