

REPORT
Regular Council Meeting
1991 April 08

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

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

RE: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP:
SIX MONTH UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information purposes.

R E P O R T

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 1991 March 27, received and adopted the attached staff report giving an update on past and proposed activities of the Child Care Resources Group.

The Committee therefore submits the report to Council for information purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman E. Nikolai
Chair

Alderman D. Evans
Member

Alderman D. Lawson
Member

Alderman C. Redman
Member

Alderman J. Young
Member

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:
AGENDA - 1991 APRIL 08
COPY - MUNICIPAL MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMUNITY SERVICES
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION

TO: CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS 1991 March 15
 COMMUNITY ISSUES &
 SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE Our File: 17.315

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
 BUILDING INSPECTION

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP: SIX MONTH UPDATE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee with an update on past and proposed activities of the Child Care Resources Group.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Child Care Resources Group is a subcommittee of the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee which was established in mid 1990. Its membership includes representatives from key non-profit agencies, the Ministry of Social Services & Housing, SFU, Douglas College, the School Board, and three Municipal departments. In 1991 February, a liaison from the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee was also appointed to the Resources Group. The objectives of the Resources Group are threefold:

- a) To serve as an advisory body to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee on child care services and programs.
- b) To act as an advocate for child care services and programs in Burnaby.
- c) To assist with the coordination of Burnaby child care services and programs.

The proposal for establishing the Child Care Resources Group came from the Burnaby School Board, which recommended that the Committee set up such a group in 1990 March. At the Committee's request, staff assessed the proposal, seeking comments from prospective members of the Resources Group to assist with the review. In 1990 June, staff recommended that the Committee establish a Child Care Resources Group in accordance with the draft terms of reference contained in Appendix 1, attached. The Committee endorsed the recommendation and forwarded it to Council for approval in 1990 July.

The first meeting of the Child Care Resources Group was held in 1990 September. At the time of this writing, the group has met six times. This report provides an overview of the Resources Group's activities to date and its plans for the remainder of 1991.

2.0 KEY ACTIVITIES

The Child Care Resources Group has focused on several issues since its inception, with primary attention being paid to the following:

- a) Child Care Space Inventory - In conjunction with the Resources Group, staff have examined the geographical distribution of child care spaces within Burnaby. Matching this information with population estimates for the various areas, we have made a preliminary assessment of the areas having the greatest need for additional spaces. Staff will continue to refine and expand the child care space inventory on an ongoing basis.

The information will assist the Resources Group with its planning and priority setting. It will also provide an important component for the proposed child care policy study discussed below and elsewhere on the Committee's agenda.

b) St. John the Divine Day Care Centre - The Child Care Resources Group assisted staff in reviewing a request from St. John the Divine Day Care Centre for emergency Municipal operating assistance. Careful consideration was given to this issue, both because of the implications of a decision on the St. John Centre and on other centres which may experience financial difficulties in the future. In addition to assisting with the staff report, the Resources Group also wrote to the centre directly, offering suggestions for improving the centre's financial viability.

c) Establishment of Priorities - At its 1991 January meeting, the Resources Group reached agreement on seven priorities to be addressed during the year. These priorities are listed in Appendix 2, attached.

3.0 FUTURE PLANS

If approval is given to undertaking a Municipal Child Care Policy Study, as proposed elsewhere on this agenda, coordination of the study will be the top priority for the Resources Group for the remainder of 1991. The Resource Group will also focus on the other items in the above noted priority list in the months ahead.

Acknowledging that unforeseen needs and issues may emerge, the Child Care Resource Group will remain flexible. Therefore, in addition to addressing items in the priority list, the group will be prepared to respond to other issues which deserve attention during the year.

4.0 CONCLUSION

After six months of operation, it is too early to assess the degree to which the Child Care Resources Group will succeed in resolving Burnaby's child care concerns. Judging from the Resource Group's accomplishments to date, however, it appears that the group will play an important role with respect to child care planning, advocacy, and service coordination.

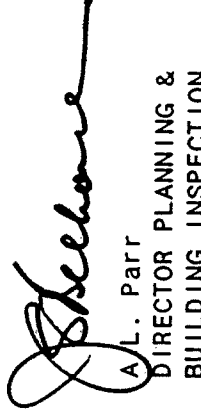
Staff will, on an annual basis, provide the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee with further update reports on the Resources Group. We will also forward information and recommendations from the group throughout the year, as required.

The recent appointment of a Committee liaison to serve on the Resources Group is seen as a positive step. It should help to ensure that the Committee's and Resources Group's efforts to improve Burnaby's child care situation will continue to occur in a planned, coordinated manner.

JF/db

Attachment

cc: Director Administrative & Community Services
Director Recreation & Cultural Services
Medical Health Officer


A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

APPENDIX 1PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCECHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP

PURPOSE - The Child Care Resources Group will serve as a subcommittee of the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee. Its main functions will be as follows:

- 1) To serve as an advisory body to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee on child care services and programs.
- 2) To act as an advocate for child care services and programs in Burnaby.
- 3) To assist with the coordination of Burnaby child care services and programs.

MEMBERSHIP - The Resources Group will consist of representatives of the following bodies:

Community Issues & Social Planning Committee
 Burnaby School Board
 Burnaby Parks & Recreation Commission
 Burnaby Health Department
 Burnaby Planning & Building Inspection Department
 Ministry of Social Services and Housing
 Burnaby Psychiatric Services
 SFU Child Care Society
 Burnaby Family Life Institute
 Burnaby Council of Parent Participation Preschools
 Burnaby Association of the Mentally Handicapped
 Douglas College Early Childhood Education Program

In addition, the Resources Group will have three representatives from the broader community and one from the business sector.

CHAIR - The Resources Group will appoint its own chairperson.

REPORTING STRUCTURE - The Resources Group will serve as a subcommittee of the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee. Therefore, on an ongoing basis, the Resources Group will keep the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee informed of its activities. It will also report its findings and recommendations through the Committee. (e.g. The Resources Group would not undertake advocacy efforts with the Provincial or Federal governments directly; it would provide recommendations to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee which, in turn, could conduct the advocacy itself or authorize the Resources Group to do so).

MEETING FREQUENCY - The Resources Group will hold ten monthly meetings per year, having a recess during July and August.

MEETING TIMES - The Resources Group will hold evening meetings, on dates to be determined by group members.

MEETING LOCATION - The initial meeting of the Resources Group will be held at Municipal Hall. Future meetings may be held at alternate locations, such as the offices of the Burnaby School Board or the Burnaby Family Life Institute.

STAFFING - The Resources Group will initially be staffed by a Committee Clerk from Municipal Hall. The possibility of securing other secretarial services, either on an ongoing or infrequent basis, will be explored with members of the Resources Group.

BUDGET - Funds will be included in the Municipality's Council Committee and Boards account to cover the costs of operating the Resources Group.

AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE - The Resources Group will review the appropriateness of its Terms of Reference on an ongoing basis. It will recommend amendments, as deemed appropriate, to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee for adoption.

Note:

These draft terms of reference were prepared in 1990 June. At the Resource Group's first meeting in 1990 September, the following amendments were proposed.

- a) Membership - Add Burnaby YMCA and Burnaby/New Westminster Family Day Care Association to the list of members; change Burnaby Parks & Recreation Commission to Parks & Recreation Department; and delete Burnaby Psychiatric Services and Burnaby Family Life Institute from the list.
- b) Meeting Times - Preference was expressed for day time rather than evening meeting.

APPENDIX 21991 PRIORITIES FOR CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP

1. To develop a proposed municipal child care strategy and policy for submission to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee.
2. To develop an ongoing process to encourage employers in Burnaby to support child care programs and for developers to provide child care spaces in new developments.
3. To assist in the development of a support system and information network for child care providers and parents of young children.
4. To assist in the creation of a coordinated agency approach involving health, education, and social services to look at issues such as standards, accessibility, availability and cost of child care.
5. To ensure that there are adequate child care options for special needs children.
6. To assist in the development of a teen parents child care program.
7. To support an ongoing child care and parent education program in the community.