

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: PROVINCIAL CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council write to the Provincial Government expressing concern that cutbacks to childcare subsidies will result in profound social and economic repercussions for persons of low income and those in need in Burnaby.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee at its meeting held on 2002 January 23, adopted the abovenoted motion, arising from discussion regarding the Committee's concerns that recently announced government cutbacks will result in significant difficulties for the citizens of Burnaby.

While details are not currently available regarding the extent of the planned changes, the Committee understands that the Province will be restricting eligibility for its Childcare Subsidy Program. Specifically, families will soon require lower income thresholds than in the past to qualify for subsidies.

The Committee acknowledges that the economic climate in B.C. is fragile and that public monies need to be allocated responsibly. That said, the overview of the Childcare Subsidy Program on the Ministry of Human Resources webpage states the following: "access to affordable, quality and appropriate childcare plays a major role in a working family's ability to gain economic security." With this in mind, the Committee considers it appropriate that the Province be asked to reconsider its decision to restrict eligibility for the subsidy.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston,
Chair

Councillor N. Harris,
Vice Chair

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- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.