

CITY OF BURNABY

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SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**RE: THE ROLE OF BURNABY'S COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING SYSTEM AND
UBC'S EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT MAPPING PROJECT AS
PLANNING TOOLS**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

R E P O R T

The Social Issues Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2005 January 26, received and adopted the *attached* report providing information on how the City's Community Asset Mapping System and UBC's Early Child Development Mapping Project can be used together as a tool for planning. The Committee advised that maps generated by the two projects share the same boundaries and can be used together to identify areas that are well served versus those with fewer assets or resources. The Committee also advised that the UBC maps focus on districts that are vulnerable in one or more areas of childhood development. The Committee concluded by noting that planners, service providers and others will be able to use CAM system's interactive format to further their understanding of each area based on their particular needs or research interests.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor L. Rankin
Vice Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Member

COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING
- DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- CHF. INFO. OFFICER, INFORMATION SERVICES

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

2005 January 20

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 17000 30

SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF BURNABY'S COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING SYSTEM
AND UBC'S EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT MAPPING PROJECT
AS PLANNING TOOLS

PURPOSE: To provide information on how the City's Community Asset Mapping System and UBC's Early Child Development Mapping Project can be used together as a tool for planning.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 2004 September 29, the Social Issues Committee received a presentation from Clyde Hertzman of UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership highlighting the findings of his research on early childhood development (ECD) in Burnaby. His presentation included maps showing the results of the Early Development Instrument (EDI), a research tool used to assess children's readiness to participate in school in different neighbourhoods in Burnaby. Arising from the discussion of Dr. Hertzman's work, the Committee requested staff to report on how data from the UBC project and the City's Community Asset Mapping (CAM) system could be used together as a planning tool. This report responds to the Committee's request.

2.0 UBC'S EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT MAPPING PROJECT

UBC's Early Child Development Mapping Project is an initiative of the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), a network of universities, government and community groups in BC examining various aspects of childhood development. A key component of the ECD Mapping Project is the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI has been administered in school districts across BC to assess young children's readiness to participate in and benefit from school activities. The EDI measures a child's development in five areas: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development; and communication skills and general knowledge. As part of the EDI, kindergarten teachers in Burnaby completed a questionnaire concerning the developmental health of each of their students in the 2002-03 school year.

In designing the EDI process, UBC researchers collaborated with City and School District staff regarding logical neighbourhood boundaries for assessment of the project data. Twenty districts were identified (see Appendix 1, *attached*).

The EDI data have now been mapped according to the 20 district units. The maps indicate districts where children are vulnerable in one or more of the five areas measured by the EDI. (The maps were provided to the Committee at its meeting on 2004 October 27.)

3.0 BURNABY'S COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING SYSTEM

The City's CAM system uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to overlay community data about programs, services and facilities in Burnaby with different variables from the 2001 Census. In designing the CAM system, a decision was made to use the same 20 districts used in the EDI project. The aim was to facilitate both a sharing and comparison of data between the two projects. The community and Census information in the CAM maps provides a compelling, visual representation of the social fabric of Burnaby's districts. By overlaying the different data layers, users can see which areas of the city are well served versus those with gaps in service.

One of the first tasks in developing the system was to compile a Census profile for each of the 20 CAM/EDI districts. Statistics Canada's Dissemination Areas (DAs) were used as building blocks to create the 20 districts.¹ The profile contains information on total population, age groups, family structure, housing types and income for each neighbourhood and has been available on the City's web site since the fall 2003.

A second, more involved, task has been to create different Census and community layers for display on the City's web site. This work is in its final stages and is expected to be available on the web site in 2005 February. Census data on the web site will be displayed by DA with CAM boundaries overlaid. This system will allow users to see information at a smaller scale within each CAM districts. The Census layers that will be available on the web site include the following:

- total population
- age distribution
- family structure
- population, aged 20 and over, with post secondary education
- population, aged 20 and over, without high school graduation
- population with English as a home language

¹ DAs are the smallest geographic area for which Census data is reported. The DA boundaries are shown in the map presented in Appendix 1.

- population with low income (i.e., Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut Offs)
- renters spending 30% or more of total income on rent
- population, aged 15 and over, who were unemployed during the week before Census Day 2001.

Community layers that will be available on the web site include the following:

- licensed child care facilities
- City operated facilities
- educational institutions
- Federal and Provincial Government and Fraser Health Authority Services
- non-market housing and care facilities
- community services
- religious institutions
- services for people with disabilities
- other non-profit organizations
- venues or facilities available for rent
- services for seniors.

The interactive format of the system will allow users to choose which Census and community layers they would like to combine according to their particular needs or interests (e.g., someone interested in opening a child care centre could combine the Census layer showing population aged 0 to 4 years with the community layer showing licensed child care).

In addition to the information that is posted on the web site, a document will be released in the spring 2005 that provides information on the development of the system, as well as a number of maps highlighting different community assets in relation to the various Census layers noted above.

4.0 USING CAM AND ECD MAPS AS A PLANNING TOOL

Although they cannot be technically combined in one computer software format, the CAM and ECD maps can be compared visually to identify differing social characteristics amongst districts in Burnaby. In combination, they will provide valuable planning information for City departments and external agencies (e.g., School District, Fraser Health Authority, Ministry of Children and Family Development). The ECD maps can be used to identify areas with positive outcomes as well as those at risk in one or more areas of childhood development, as measured by the EDI. The CAM system adds to the EDI results by providing further demographic and community information about each neighbourhood. Information available from the system will include the type, number and capacity of different facilities in each neighbourhood; programs offered by various organizations and the client

groups served; and contact information for the organizations, including links to the organizations' web sites if available. This information will help City staff, external agencies and the public identify what is (or is not) available in each area, locate previously unknown resources and develop demographic profiles.

One of the main users of this information in the near future will be Burnaby's Early Childhood Development Steering Committee (formerly named the Burnaby Children First Committee). The Committee was created by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to develop a strategic action plan to improve early childhood development outcomes in Burnaby. Members of the Committee include child care providers, community service providers, community school coordinators, MCFD and Fraser Health Authority staff and staff from Burnaby Public Library and the Planning and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Departments.

The five-year plan has now been completed and has entered its implementation phase. Year One objectives focus on small, attainable steps including the following:

- identifying CAM districts that are most vulnerable in one or more areas measured by the EDI;
- identifying existing services and supports, and learning more about other social and economic conditions in the targeted areas by using the City's CAM system; and
- working with direct service providers, parents and other community members to determine where new services are needed, and where existing services need to be enhanced.

As the ECD Steering Committee targets each of the 20 neighbourhoods over the next five years, the CAM system will provide ongoing support to the work of the Committee².

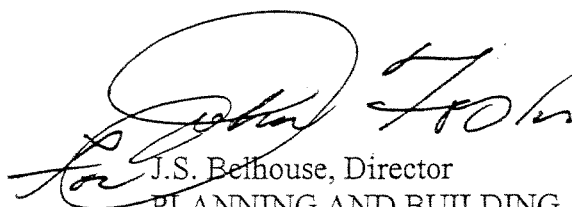
5.0 CONCLUSION

In combination, the City's CAM and UBC's ECD maps provide valuable planning information that will assist City departments and external agencies in their planning, programming and resource allocation decisions. Maps generated by the two projects share the same boundaries and can be used together to identify areas that are well served versus those with fewer assets or resources. The UBC maps focus on districts that are vulnerable

² The aim of the CAM initiative has been to create a dynamic information and planning system, not a one-time snapshot of Burnaby's current assets. To this end, the City will work in partnership with the Burnaby Information and Community Services Society to update the community information on a regular basis while Census data will be updated with each new Census (i.e., every five years).

in one or more areas of childhood development. Planners, service providers and others will be able to use CAM system's interactive format to further their understanding of each area based on their particular needs or research interests. Together, it is expected that the two projects will provide a valuable, ongoing resource to the community.

It is recommended that this report be received for the information of the Committee.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa

Attachment

- cc: City Manager
- Director Engineering
- Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Chief Information Officer, Information Services

