
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE IN BURNABY

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council join Code Blue, the Canada-wide Campaign to protect child care, by writing to urge the Prime Minister and Burnaby Members of Parliament to honour commitments made under the Federal-Provincial Agreements on child care and to take other necessary measures to maintain and enhance the child care system in Canada.
2. THAT Council write to the Premier and Burnaby MLA's urging the province to call on the Federal Government to honour its commitment to the Federal-Provincial Agreements on child care and, irrespective of the Federal Government's response, continue to ensure that the current levels of funding remain available for child care in B.C.

REPORT

At the Social Issues Committee Open meeting held on 2006 May 16, representatives of the Child Care Resources Group appeared as a delegation to discuss the importance of the early years in the development of children. The delegation also provided updated information regarding child care spaces and wait lists in Burnaby.

The speakers referenced the work of Dr. Clyde Hertzman and a research tool called the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The speakers noted that the EDI measures a child's development in five categories: physical health and well being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development; and communications skills and general knowledge.

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To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: Social Issues Committee
Re: CHILD CARE IN BURNABY
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The delegation advised that the Child Care Resources and Referral Program receives an average of 200 calls per month from parents seeking child care. The speakers also advised that all licensed group child care centres in Burnaby have wait lists. The speakers further noted that there were 3,171 licensed child care spaces in the city as of June 2005. As well, there were 11,460 children aged 0-5 years and 14,670 children aged 6-12 years according to the 2001 census.

The delegation advised that the 2005 Federal-Provincial Child Care Agreements have been cancelled by the new federal government. The speakers expressed concern that the provincial government may roll back child care funding as a result of the termination of these agreements.

The delegation concluded by advising that Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada has launched a national Code Blue campaign to convince the federal government to honour all 5 years of the Federal-Provincial Child Care Agreements.

Arising from the delegation's presentation, the Social Issues Committee requested that Council join Code Blue by writing to urge the Prime Minister and Burnaby MP's to honour commitments made under the Federal-Provincial Agreements on child care and to take other necessary measures to maintain and enhance the child care system in Canada. The Committee also requested that Council write to the Premier and Burnaby MLA's urging the province to call on the Federal Government to honour its commitments to the Federal-Provincial Agreements on child care and, irrespective of the Federal Government's response, continue to ensure that at least the current levels of funding remain available for child care in B.C.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor Garth Evans
Member