

**SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2010**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information

**REPORT**

The Social Issues Committee, at its 'Open' meeting held on 2010 January 21, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2009 and to propose a Work Plan for 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor P. Calendino  
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell  
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang  
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Planning and Building
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2010 January 15

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 1750 20

**SUBJECT:** **CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2010**

**PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2009 and to propose a Work Plan for 2010.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be forwarded to Council for information.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) was established in 1990 as a sub-committee of the Social Issues Committee. It is comprised of representatives from non-profit child care societies operating in Burnaby, as well as the Fraser Health Authority, the Burnaby School District, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral Program, and the City's Planning and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Departments. The CCRG's Terms of Reference also provide an opportunity for the Social Issues Committee to be represented on the group.

As outlined in its Terms of Reference, the mandate of the CCRG is to:

- serve as an advisory body to the Social Issues Committee on child care matters;
- assist with the development of Burnaby child care policies, services and programs; and
- act as an advocate for child care services and programs in Burnaby.

In accordance with Burnaby's Child Care Policy, originally adopted by Burnaby Council in 1993 and revised in 2000, the CCRG has prepared periodic update reports on its activities for the Social Issues Committee and Council. Ten reports have been prepared to date. This report provides an overview of activities in 2009, and proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for 2010.

**2.0 KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2009****2.1 *Research and Advocacy***

In service to the advocacy role outlined in its mandate, the CCRG developed a presentation on child care worker wages for the Social Issues Committee. The presentation was prepared to support the province-wide campaign initiated by the Early Childhood Educators of B.C. to have entry level wages for child care workers raised to \$20/hour. The presentation, to be presented at the 2010 January 21 Social Issues Committee meeting, highlights one of the most difficult aspects of operating a child care centre today.

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namely the recruitment and retention of qualified child care workers. The presentation examines current child care worker wages, current parent fees and the impact that a wage increase would have on parent fees. It concludes with a call for a publicly funded, universal child care system that would support an equitable entry wage for child care workers.

In its research role, the CCRG assisted staff with a review of parking needs for licensed family and licensed group child care centres. The review concluded that no changes to City parking regulations are required at this time.

## **2.2 Information and support**

A key undertaking of the CCRG was an update of the *Child Care Planning Resource Package* as a means of assisting groups and individuals desiring to develop child care spaces in Burnaby. The revised package contains updated licensing and demographic information, updated information on the number of licensed child care spaces by Burnaby's four quadrants, and a new section on zoning requirements for child care. The revised Package is available in hard copy through the City and member organizations of the CCRG, and on the City's website.

Another important information activity was the development and distribution of printed information on the importance of quality child care for early childhood development, and critical issues in the child care field. The information was distributed at Healthy Kids Preschool Fairs and other community events. The information has been translated into Chinese with assistance from South Burnaby Neighbourhood House. Korean, Punjabi and Farsi translations will be available in 2010.

Lastly, at the request of the CCRG, City Council proclaimed May 2009 as Child Care Month and May 15, 2009 as Childcare Giver Appreciation Day in Burnaby. Banners celebrating Child Care Month and the importance of quality child care as a foundation for life-long learning were displayed from the City's two pedestrian overpasses at Kingsway and Boundary, and on Canada Way in front of City Hall. The CCRG also collaborated with the Burnaby Understanding the Early Years Project and the Child Care Resource and Referral program in sponsoring a Child Caregiver Appreciation event at the Burnaby Village Museum that was attended by 90 caregivers.

## **3.0 THE YEAR AHEAD**

During 2010, in addition to its ongoing role in monitoring changes in the child care environment at the Provincial and Federal levels, the CCRG proposes to focus on three main initiatives and ancillary activities (see proposed 2010 Work Plan, *attached as Appendix 1*).

First, in support of group child care operations in Burnaby, the CCRG plans to work with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table to sponsor an information session on the impacts of the Province's move to all-day Kindergarten for five year olds. Under the Provincial plan, all schools in British Columbia will offer all-day Kindergarten to five year olds by September 2011. The plan will be implemented in two phases: by September 2010, 24 of Burnaby's 41 elementary schools will offer all-day Kindergarten.

There is considerable concern amongst child care providers about how all-day Kindergarten will affect their operations. In particular, Kindercare programs, which have been able to retain full-time staff by providing care to 5-year old children during the half day that 5-year olds are not in Kindergarten, may have difficulty retaining staff if hours are lost while children attend all-day Kindergarten. There is also

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concern regarding the space requirements needed for all-day Kindergarten and the possible impact on child care programs currently housed in schools.

The intent of the information session will be to examine the fiscal and quality of care impacts of all-day Kindergarten on child care operations, and to identify opportunities for child care providers to collaborate to mitigate negative impacts. Six to eight of the largest non-profit child care centres will be invited to attend the session.

Following the information session, the CCRG plans to offer members of the Social Issues Committee a tour of child care centres to highlight any impacts or opportunities for collaboration resulting from the implementation of all-day Kindergarten.

Second, the CCRG plans to assist City staff to review zoning requirements for group child care in residential zones with a view to identifying and responding to challenges for child care providers wishing to expand the number of spaces they offer from seven to ten. Any proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw would be subject to the regular City approvals process.

Third, to raise public awareness of the importance of child care, the CCRG proposes to celebrate Child Care Month in May 2010 by:

- requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim the month and childcare giver appreciation day;
- displaying banners celebrating Child Care Month from pedestrian overpasses;
- submitting articles on child care to the local newspapers; and
- seeking opportunities to collaborate with other relevant groups in sponsoring an appreciation event for child care workers.

In addition, the CCRG will continue to raise public awareness of the critical issues in the child care field and of the importance of quality child care on early childhood development by distributing printed material it produced in 2009 at community events (see section 2.2. above).

As the year progresses, members of the CCRG may identify other activities pertaining to child care issues in Burnaby. The CCRG would seek prior approval for any additional major activities it wishes to undertake in 2010. Resource requirements for the CCRG's proposed 2010 activities are expected to be minimal, consisting primarily of meeting expenses for the information session on all-day Kindergarten. These expenses can be accommodated within the Planning Department's operating budget allocation.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**


This report has provided an overview of the CCRG's key activities in 2009. It also proposes a Work Plan for the CCRG for the year ahead. During 2010, the CCRG proposes to:

- co-sponsor an information session for non-profit child care operators on the potential fiscal and quality of care impacts of all-day Kindergarten on child care operations;
- assist with a staff review of Burnaby's zoning requirements as they pertain to licensed group child care centres in residential zones; and
- celebrate Child Care Month.

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The CCRG will also assume its customary role of monitoring changes in the child care environment at the Provincial and Federal levels, and providing advice to the Social Issues Committee and Council on appropriate City responses as necessary.

This report is provided for the information of the Committee.

  
B. Luksun, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa:tn

Attachment

cc: City Manager  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

## **Burnaby Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) 2010 Work Plan**

### **Child Care Resources Group Mandate (as outlined in CCRG Terms of Reference):**

- to serve as an advisory body to the Social Issues Committee on child care matters;
- to assist with the development of Burnaby child care policies, services and programs; and
- to act as an advocate for child care services and programs in Burnaby.

### **Child Care Resources Group Objectives for 2009:**

- 1) to monitor potential impacts to child care operations in Burnaby with the Provincial government's move to all-day Kindergarten for five year olds;
- 2) to examine strategies to encourage development of additional child care spaces in Burnaby;
- 3) to raise public awareness of critical issues in the child care field, and of the importance of quality child care for healthy child development; and
- 4) to monitor changes in the child care environment at the Provincial and Federal levels, and to provide advice to the Social Issues Committee and Council on an appropriate City of Burnaby response.

### **Child Care Resources Group Activities for 2010:**

- 1) Work with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Table to sponsor an information session on the Province's move to all-day Kindergarten for five year olds. Under the Provincial plan, all schools in B.C. will offer all-day Kindergarten for five year olds by September 2011. The plan will be implemented in two phases: for September 2010, 24 out of 41 elementary schools in Burnaby will offer all-day Kindergarten. The intent of the information session will be to examine the fiscal and quality of care impacts of all-day Kindergarten and the possible impact of child care programs housed in schools. The information session may also identify opportunities for child care providers to collaborate in the provision of child care. Following the session, the CCRG will offer Social Issues Committee members a tour of child care centres to highlight any impacts resulting from the implementation of all-day Kindergarten.
- 2) Assist City staff to review zoning requirements for group child care in residential zones with a view to identifying and responding to challenges for child care providers wishing to expand the number of spaces they offer from seven to ten. The review would seek to ensure that consistent information on what is possible in residential zones is provided by both the City and Fraser Health Licensing.
- 3) Celebrate Child Care Month by:
  - requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim May 2010 as Child Care Month and childcare giver appreciation day,
  - displaying banners celebrating Child Care Month from pedestrian overpasses;
  - submitting articles on child care to the local newspapers; and
  - seeking opportunities to collaborate with other relevant groups in sponsoring an appreciation event for child care workers.
- 4) Continue to raise awareness of the critical issues in the child care field and of the importance of quality child care on early childhood development by distributing printed material that the CCRG produced in 2009 at community events.