

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: ‘COMMUNITY PLAN FOR A PUBLIC SYSTEM OF INTEGRATED
EARLY CARE AND LEARNING’ BY THE COALITION OF CHILD
CARE ADVOCATES OF BC AND THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATORS OF BC**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council endorse the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning* proposed by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC.

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee, at its meeting held on 2011 September 22, received a delegation and correspondence regarding the finalized ‘*Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning*’ released by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC. The Social Issues Committee received requests from the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC as well as Lois Jackson, Chair, Metro Vancouver Board requesting that the City of Burnaby endorse the *Community Plan* and urge the Premier and the Minister of Education to commit to the Plan’s vision and work with communities to begin its implementation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC collaborated to develop the *Community Plan* as a means to inform and influence the changes being implemented by the BC Ministry of Education through full day Kindergarten for 5 year olds and the possibility of Junior Kindergarten for 3 and 4 year olds. The *Community Plan* is a proposal to incorporate child care with the public education system, addressing issues facing many BC families of high day care fees, low wages and a lack of regulated child care spaces. Child care plays a central role in supporting families by enabling them to remain in the paid workforce.

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: Social Issues Committee
Re: Support for Community Plan for a Public System of
Integrated Early Care and Learning
2011 October 03 Page 2

2.0 SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN FOR A PUBLIC SYSTEM OF INTEGRATED EARLY CARE AND LEARNING

The *Community Plan* is based on research that demonstrates public spending on quality early care for children is a sound social and economic investment. The goal of the *Community Plan* is to ensure that children, families, communities and our economy are served by a high quality, universal, democratic and accountable system of early care and learning.

Highlights of the Integrated Plan:

- Early Care and Learning Act for BC;
- New Home in Ministry of Education - for all community and school-based early care and learning programs;
- New Role for Boards of Education;
- Development of Early Years Centre Networks;
- Enhancement of Kindergarten and Grade One;
- Strengthening School Age Care and Family Child Care; and
- Developing the Early Childhood Educators' workforce.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The Social Issues Committee recommends that Council endorse the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Care and Learning* as proposed by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC. To date the *Community Plan* has been endorsed by the BC Federation of Labour, Lower Mainland Local Government Association, Greater Vancouver Regional District Board of Directors and the City of Vancouver as well as 16 other organizations. The support of Council for the *Community Plan* would be consistent with Burnaby's historical support for a comprehensive, publically funded, universal system.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Paul McDonell
Chair

Councillor Anne Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor Pietro Calendino
Member

Copied: City Manager
Director Planning and Building