

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee, at its meeting held on 2011 January 27, received and adopted the *attached* report to provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2010 and to propose a Workplan for 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor P. McDonell
Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
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: 2011 January 21

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: **CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2011**

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2010 and to propose a Workplan for 2011.

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. Eleven reports have been prepared to date. This report provides an overview of activities in 2010, and proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for 2011.

2.0 KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2010**2.1 *Research***

In its research role, the CCRG assisted staff in identifying zoning and licensing issues that affect prospective and existing child care providers in Burnaby. This information was valuable in discussions between City and Fraser Health Licensing staff. The discussions aimed at developing a better understanding of siting and licensing requirements of both the City and Fraser Health with a view to streamlining the process for people wishing to open new child care centres or to change the type of care

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they provide. The insights gathered through these discussions have assisted staff in processing new applications for child care centres more efficiently.

2.2 Information and Support

A key undertaking of the CCRG in 2010 was to sponsor an information session for child care providers in Burnaby on the Province's move to full-day kindergarten for five year olds. In September 2010, 24 out of 41 elementary schools in Burnaby began full-day kindergarten. The remaining 17 elementary schools will initiate full-day kindergarten in September 2011. In recognition of concerns amongst child care providers on the potential impacts of full-day kindergarten on their operations, CCRG members felt that child care providers would benefit from the opportunity to meet with other child care providers to discuss potential impacts and possible solutions.

The information session took place on 2010 June 3. Participants discussed possible financial, staffing and programming impacts. CCRG members in attendance felt that session went well. Child care providers appreciated the opportunity to express their concerns and were able to work through some possible solutions. They also appreciated the opportunity to network and exchange contact information.

As a follow-up to the information session, the CCRG has offered a tour of child care centres to members of the Social Issues Committee to highlight any impacts or opportunities for collaboration resulting from the implementation of full-day kindergarten. The tour will take place in late February or early March 2011.

Another important information activity was the continued distribution of printed information developed by the CCRG in 2009 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 and Farsi with assistance from South Burnaby Neighbourhood House.

Lastly, at the request of the CCRG, City Council proclaimed May 2010 as Child Care Month and May 20, 2010 as Childcare Giver Appreciation Day in Burnaby. A banner celebrating Child Care Month and the importance of quality child care as a foundation for life-long learning was displayed from the City's pedestrian overpasses at Kingsway and Boundary. The CCRG also collaborated with the Burnaby and New Westminster Early Childhood Development Community Tables to sponsor a Child Caregiver Appreciation event in New Westminster that was attended by 65 caregivers. Councillor Calendino, Chair of the Social Issues Committee, attended the event to express appreciation to attendees on behalf of the City.

3.0 THE YEAR AHEAD

During 2011, 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 four main initiatives and ancillary activities (see proposed 2011 Workplan, *attached* as *Appendix 1*).

3.1 Survey of Child Care Providers

First, to provide further understanding regarding the implementation of full-day kindergarten and child care provision, the CCRG proposes to conduct a survey of child care providers in Burnaby in the fall of 2011 once full-day kindergarten is underway in all elementary schools. The purpose of the survey would

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be to determine whether there continues to be a shortage of licensed child care spaces, whether child care providers have had to change their programs to account for 5 years olds moving into kindergarten for 6 hours each day, and whether there are sufficient child care spaces for 5 year olds before and after kindergarten. The information gathered from the survey would help to determine the types of child care that is most needed, particulars of space requirements (e.g. space requirements needed in and near elementary schools) and any potential licensing concerns. Once the results of the survey are tabulated, the CCRG would report back to the Social Issues Committee with any recommended zoning or regulatory changes.

3.2 Proposed Text Amendment to Zoning Bylaw

Second, in response to issues raised in the discussion between City and Fraser Health staff in 2010 September, the CCRG will provide advice to staff regarding a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to allow family child care centres the possibility of having one outside staff person on site. Currently, family child care centres are considered home-based businesses and these do not allow for outside employees. Licensing and Fire Department staff have advised that having an extra staff person on site in a family child care would allow for greater safety of children in cases of emergency and could assist with communications in cases where the primary operator has limited knowledge of English. Any proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw would be subject to the regular City approvals process.

3.3 Annual Discussion between City and Fraser Health Licensing Staff

Third, following the successful discussion that took place between City and Fraser Health staff in 2010 September, Planning staff propose to hold this type of discussion annually and broaden the invitation list to include safety inspection staff from the Fire Department. To inform the discussion, the CCRG will assist staff in identifying any approval and regulatory issues that could be addressed by both the City and Fraser Health.

3.4 Celebration of Child Care Month

Lastly, to raise public awareness of the importance of child care, the CCRG proposes to celebrate Child Care Month in May 2011 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
- collaborating with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table 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 updating and distributing printed material that CCRG produced in 2009 at community events.

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 2011. Resource requirements for the CCRG's proposed 2011 activities are expected to be minimal, consisting primarily of expenses for the survey of child care providers. These expenses can be accommodated within the Planning Department's operating budget allocation.

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4.0 CONCLUSION

This report has provided an overview of the CCRG's key activities in 2010. It also proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for the year ahead. During 2011, the CCRG proposes to:

- conduct a survey of Burnaby child care providers regarding the impacts of full-day kindergarten to gather an understanding of the types of child care that is most needed and any resulting space requirement and licensing implications;
- provide advice to staff regarding a proposed zoning change to allow family child care centres the possibility of having one outside staff person on site;
- assist staff in identifying any approval and regulatory issues regarding new and existing child care providers that could be addressed by City, Fire Department and Fraser Health staff at an annual discussion; and
- celebrate Child Care Month.

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

Attachment

cc: City Manager
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

R:\Long Range Clerical\DOCS\MM\Committee Reports\Work Plan 2011 Report.Docx

Burnaby Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) 2011 Workplan

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 2011:

- 1) to monitor potential impacts to child care operations in Burnaby with the implementation of full-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 2011:

- 1) To provide further understanding regarding the implementation of full-day kindergarten and child care provision, the CCRG will conduct a survey of child care providers in Burnaby in the fall of 2011 once full-day kindergarten is underway in all elementary schools. The purpose of the survey will be to determine whether there continues to be a shortage of licensed child care spaces, if child care providers have had to change their programs to account for 5 year olds moving into kindergarten for 6 hours each day, and whether there are sufficient child care spaces for 5 year olds before and after kindergarten. The information gathered from the survey will help to determine the types of child care that are most needed, particulars of space requirements (e.g. space requirements needed in and near elementary schools) and any potential licensing concerns. Once the results of the survey are tabulated, the CCRG will report back to the Social Issues Committee with any recommended zoning or regulatory changes.
- 2) The CCRG will provide advice to staff regarding a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to allow family child care centres the possibility of having one outside staff person on site. Currently, family child care centres are considered home-based businesses and these do not allow for outside employees. Licensing and Fire Department staff have advised that that having an extra staff person on site would allow for greater safety of children in cases of emergency and could assist with communications in cases where the primary operator has limited knowledge of English. Any proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw will be subject to the regular City approvals process.

- 3) The CCRG will assist staff in identifying any approval and regulatory issues that could be addressed by City, Fire Department and Fraser Health staff at an annual discussion.
- 4) The CCRG will help to celebrate Child Care Month by:
 - requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim May 2011 as Child Care Month and proclaim 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.
- 5) 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.

MM:sa