

**SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2012**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**REPORT**

The Social Issues Committee, at its meeting held on 2012 January 26, received and adopted the *attached* report to provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2011 and to propose a Workplan for 2012.

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
------------	---

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2012 January 19

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 1750 20

**SUBJECT:** **CHILD CARE RESOURCES GROUP UPDATE FOR 2012**

**PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of activities of the Child Care Resources Group during 2011 and to propose a Workplan for 2012.

---

**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 Fraser Health, 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.

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. This report provides an overview of activities in 2011, and proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for 2012.

**2.0 KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2011****2.1 *Survey of Burnaby Child Care Providers***

A key undertaking of the CCRG in 2011 was the design and launch of a survey of Burnaby child care providers to gather information on child care programs and the transition to full-day kindergarten in elementary schools across B.C. The purpose of the survey is to gain an

understanding of changes in child care programs to account for five-year olds moving into full-day kindergarten and any shortages in available child care spaces. The survey was launched in the late fall to allow child care providers to report on their experiences after full-day kindergarten was fully implemented. Once the results of the survey are tabulated, the CCRG will report back to the Social Issues Committee and share the results with Fraser Health Licensing, Burnaby School District and other interested community partners.

## **2.2 Child Care Centre Tour**

Another important activity of the CCRG was the organization of a tour of child care centres for members of the Social Issues Committee. The tour took place on 2011 March 3. Two councillors and three citizen members of the Social Issues Committee took part in the tour. Participants visited five centres: one privately-run group centre, the City-owned Hanna Court and Taylor Park Children's Centres operated by Burnaby Children's Centres Society, one school-aged care centre operated by South Burnaby Neighbourhood House and one family child care centre. Participants learned about the different types of licensed child care and discussed various aspects of operating child care centres.

## **2.3 Advice – Family Child Care Centres**

In its advisory role, the CCRG provides advice on child care issues, services and programs. In 2011, the CCRG reviewed quality of care issues in family child care centres and provided advice on matters that may be appropriate to address through changes to the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw. Staff are reviewing the suggestions and will report on any arising amendments, as appropriate, through the Community Development Committee.

## **2.4 Child Care Month**

At the request of the CCRG, City Council proclaimed May 2011 as Child Care Month and May 19 as Child Caregiver Appreciation Day. Banners celebrating Child Care Month and the importance of quality child care as a foundation of 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. As part of child care month, the CCRG also assisted the Burnaby NewsLeader with a feature article on parents' issues in finding quality child care. Staff connected the NewsLeader reporter to child care providers and provided statistics on child care spaces in Burnaby. The CCRG also collaborated with the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Table in sponsoring a Child Caregiver Appreciation Event at the Schou Education centre on 2011 May 16. The event was attended by 70 child care providers.

## **2.5 Advocacy**

In its advocacy role, the CCRG monitored the development of the Community Plan for a Public System of Early Care and Learning prepared by the Early Childhood Educators of B.C. (ECEBC) and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C. (CCCABC). Representatives of ECEBC and CCCABC appeared as a delegation to the Social Issues Committee in 2011 March

To: Social Issues Committee  
From: Director Planning and Building  
Re: Child Care Resources Group Update for 2012  
2012 January 19..... Page 3

to present its Emerging Plan and again in 2011 September to present its finalized Community Plan. In September, the ECEBC and CCCABC representatives also requested Council's support for a resolution brought forward to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) entitled Provincial and Federal Investment in Early Care and Learning. Council subsequently supported the resolution at the UBCM Convention in late September. The CCRG will continue to track the Community Plan's progress as it is considered by the Provincial and Federal governments.

### **3.0 THE YEAR AHEAD**

During 2012, 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 2012 Workplan, *attached* as *Appendix 1*).

#### **3.1 Results of Survey of Child Care Providers**

First, once the results of the survey of Burnaby child care providers are tabulated, the CCRG will prepare a presentation on the survey's findings for the Social Issues Committee. The CCRG will also share the results of the survey with Fraser Health Licensing, Burnaby School District and other interested community partners.

In addition to the CCRG survey, the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Community Table will be conducting a survey of Burnaby parents regarding their child care experiences in early 2012. It is anticipated that the information gathered from the CCRG survey, as well as the parent survey, will help determine the types of child care that are most needed, particulars of space requirements (e.g., space requirements in and near elementary schools) and any potential licensing concerns. The results of these two surveys will be reviewed to identify any new initiatives or actions that could be pursued by the CCRG in the future. Potential initiatives would be reported to the Committee and Council for consideration and direction on any necessary next steps.

#### **3.2 Guide to the Approval Process**

To help with the dissemination of information on requirements and regulations related to operating licensed child care, the CCRG will assist staff in the preparation of a step-by-step guide on the approval process for opening a child care centre. Planning Department staff will work with staff from Fraser Health Licensing staff and the Fire Department on the development of the guide. The guide could be used to communicate and highlight information on any changes in regulations arising from review work underway related to family child care centres, as noted in section 2.3 above.

### **3.3 Social Sustainability Strategy Actions Related to Child Care**

Third, it is proposed that the CCRG assist in the implementation of two actions contained in Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy adopted by Council in 2011 July<sup>1</sup>, namely:

*Action #1: Examine the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of more child care facilities (e.g., allowing child care as a permitted use in commercial districts).*

and

*Action #2: Continue to advocate to the federal and provincial governments for a comprehensive and integrated child care plan which establishes an early care and learning system that is universal, publicly funded, inclusive, affordable, and of high quality.*

As noted in section 1.0 above, the two actions are consistent with the Terms of Reference of the CCRG. In Action #1, the results of the CCRG's child care survey could provide useful background information to assist staff in examining the Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate development of more child care facilities. In relation to Action #2, the CCRG, as noted in section 2.5, will track the progress of the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning prepared by the ECEBC and CCCABC. It is proposed that the CCRG prepare update reports on its status and advise the Social Issues Committee on any advocacy actions for its consideration.

### **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 2012 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, and providing in-kind support (e.g. use of City facility) to the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table in co-sponsoring an appreciation event for child care providers.

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 at community events.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy contains actions for the City and its internal and external partners, acting within their respective mandates or in collaboration, to advance the Strategy's goals and vision. Staff are currently preparing a report on proposed Phase I priorities and a work plan for the first year. The report will be forwarded to Council in early 2012. The Strategy is available at [www.burnaby.ca](http://www.burnaby.ca).

To: Social Issues Committee  
From: Director Planning and Building  
Re: Child Care Resources Group Update for 2012  
2012 January 19 ..... Page 5

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 2012. Resource requirements for the CCRG's proposed 2012 activities are expected to be minimal, consisting primarily of incidental expenses related to the survey of child care providers. 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 2011. It also proposes a Workplan for the CCRG for the year ahead. During 2012, the CCRG proposes to:

- tabulate and prepare a presentation on the results of a survey of Burnaby child care providers regarding their programs and the transition to full-day kindergarten; results will be presented to the Social Issues Committee, Fraser Health, Burnaby School District and other interested community partners;
- prepare and distribute a step-by-step guide on the approval process for opening a child care centre;
- assist in the implementation of two actions pertaining to child care contained in Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy adopted by Council in 2011 July; 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\2012\CCRG Work Plan 2012 Report.docx

## **Burnaby Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) Proposed 2012 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 2012:**

- 1) to report on the results of the CCRG survey of Burnaby child care providers regarding their programs and the transition to full-day kindergarten;
- 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 2012:**

- 1) Prepare a presentation for the Social Issues Committee on the results of the CCRG survey of Burnaby child care providers regarding their programs and the transition to full-day kindergarten. The CCRG will assist in tabulating the results and preparing the presentation for the Social Issues Committee. The CCRG will also share the results with Fraser Health Licensing, Burnaby School District and other interested community partners.
- 2) Assist staff in the preparation of a step-by-step guide on the approval process for opening a child care centre. Planning Department staff will work with staff from Fraser Health Licensing staff and the Fire Department on the development of the guide. The guide could also be used to communicate and highlight information on any changes to regulations resulting from proposed text amendments to the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw regarding family child care centres.
- 3) Assist in the implementation of Actions #1 and 2<sup>1</sup> in Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy adopted by Council in 2011 July. In Action #1, the results of the CCRG's child care survey could provide useful background information to assist staff in examining the Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate development of more child care facilities. In relation to Action #2, the CCRG will track the progress of current advocacy initiatives regarding the development of a Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning prepared by the ECEBC and CCCABC. The CCRG will prepare update reports on

---

<sup>1</sup> Action #1: *Examine the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of more child care facilities. (e.g., allowing child care as a permitted use in commercial districts).* Action# 2: *Continue to advocate to the federal and provincial governments for a comprehensive and integrated child care plan which establishes an early care and learning system that is universal, publicly funded, inclusive, affordable, and of high quality.*

its status and advise the Social Issues Committee on any advocacy actions for its consideration.

- 4) Help to celebrate Child Care Month by:
  - requesting Burnaby Council to proclaim May 2012 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 at community events.