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**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2019 November 13

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 13000 02  
*Reference: Child Care*

**SUBJECT:** BURNABY CHILDREN'S CHARTER

**PURPOSE:** To provide information on the Children's Charter developed by the Burnaby Children's Community Table.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council endorse the Burnaby Children's Charter as presented to Council at its meeting on 2019 November 4.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Burnaby Children's Community Table.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 2019 November 4, Council received a delegation from the Burnaby Children's Community Table (BCCT). The BCCT is a merged community planning table comprised of the Burnaby Early Childhood Development Table and the Burnaby School Aged Initiative. The BCCT includes a broad base of non-government community service providers and government representatives including the City (Parks, Recreation and Culture, Burnaby Public Library and Social Planning), Burnaby School District, Fraser Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development who work together to plan and coordinate programs and services for children, youth and families.

Representatives of the BCCT along with three Burnaby school children appeared at the 2019 November 4 Council meeting to request endorsement of its newly developed Children's Charter. Arising from the delegation, Council referred the delegation's request to staff for a report recommending that the City endorse the Charter and highlight ways that the City can support the Charter. This report responds to that request.

**2.0 THE BURNABY CHILDREN'S CHARTER**

In general terms, a children's charter sets out a vision for a child-friendly city and promotes the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the community level. The UNCRC was adopted by the United Nations in 1989 and ratified by Canada in 1991.

The Burnaby Children's Charter is the culmination of a three-year project that engaged over 250 Burnaby children from ages three to 12 years old in identifying their rights and responsibilities (see *Attachment 1*). Thirty staff at 12 agency sites across the city were trained on how to use play and art-based tools to elicit a child's view of a child-friendly community. The agency sites included child care centres, non-profit agencies and school-based StrongStart programs.

With the support of Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education (formerly known as the Canadian Human Rights Foundation), the voices of Burnaby children were collected and reflected in the Charter. The Charter is meant to be used as a tool to help organizations embed the principles on the UNCRC into their work. Children's rights aim to ensure that each child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. In Burnaby, children identified the following rights for the Burnaby Children's Charter:

- I have the right to play
- I have the right to healthy food and clean water
- I have the right to a clean environment
- I have the right to feel safe
- I have the right to people who care about me
- I have the right to kindness, love, and to be included
- I have the right to sleep and rest
- I have the right to community spaces
- I have the right to be heard and to express myself
- I have the right to learn

The BCCT has developed an Action Planning Guide to help organizations implement the Charter. The Guide encourages organizations to reflect on their policies, programs and services and provides best practices in implementing Charter articles.

The BCCT will also seek endorsement of the Charter by other community partners including the Burnaby School District, Fraser Health, Ministry of Children and Family Development and Burnaby-based community service providers.

### **3.0 POLICY**

The Burnaby Children's Charter aligns with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan in relation to the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

#### ***A Connected Community***

- Social Connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
- Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, association, other communities and governments

#### ***An Inclusive Community***

- Serve a diverse community – Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community

- Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging

#### ***A Healthy Community***

- Healthy life – Encourage opportunities for healthy living and wellbeing
- Healthy environment – Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
- Lifelong learning – Improve upon and develop programs and services that enable ongoing learning
- Community involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to giveback to and invest in the community

### **4.0 SUPPORTING THE CHARTER**

Through the Charter, Burnaby children have identified what they need to grow up healthy and happy. There is direct alignment with the children's rights identified in the Charter and the Corporate Strategic Plan and the strategic priorities of the City's sustainability strategies (Social Sustainability Strategy, Environmental Strategy and Economic Development Strategy). Through implementation of the Corporate Strategic Plan and the sustainability strategies, the City continues to promote the health and well being of children and families.

A key principle of the Charter is children's right to be heard. Moving forward, various City departments can endeavour to ensure that children's voices are heard in community consultation, engagement and planning processes. To facilitate the implementation of the Charter as appropriate, staff will distribute the Charter and Action Guide to City departments and the Burnaby Public Library.

### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council endorse the Burnaby Children's Charter. By endorsing the Charter, Council will further demonstrate the City's commitment to the health and well being of Burnaby children and families.

It is further recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Burnaby Children's Community Table.



E.W. Kozak, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa  
Attachment

Copied to: Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Director Public Safety and Community Services  
Director Corporate Services  
Director Finance

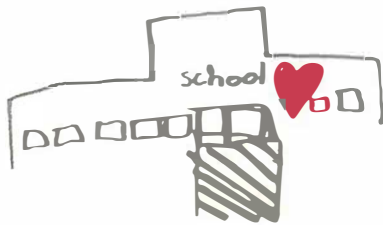
Chief Librarian  
City Clerk

# Burnaby Children's Charter

I have the right to feel safe

"If you get treated badly, you will have a bad memory."

"I like that I can walk to my grandparent's house."



I have the right to healthy food and clean water

"I like to eat bananas."

"It's good that there are stores in my community. We need food to grow big."

I have the right to community spaces

"The library [is important], because anyone can go there."

"[Community centre is important because] you can learn without having to go to school"



I have the right to a clean environment

"I like to collect caterpillars. I like flowers."

"Stop people smoking."



I have the right to play

"When I can play I'm happy."

"I like to play outside in the park."



I have the right to people who care about me

"I love my mom, dad and brother, they take care of me."

"I ask the police if I don't know how to go home."



I have the right to kindness, love, and to be included

"We help others so that when we need help they help us."

"When we are treated right we will treat others better."



I have the right to be heard and to express myself

"I like when the teacher writes my ideas down."

"Listen to us, don't ignore us."

I have the right to sleep and rest

"Because we need to sleep to grow."

"[I like] my house when no one is there. I like alone time."

"[We need] apartment buildings families can afford."

I have the right to learn

"The aquarium is important because you can learn about jellyfish."

"I like my school. I like to go there to play with my teacher and my friends."