

City of Richmond **Commitment to Child Care**

- **Child Care Policy**

1. Richmond's Official Community Plan aims to “promote the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive child care system to provide accessible and affordable quality programs” through the following actions:
 - Continue to work with the community to establish quality, affordable child care services;
 - Update the Child Care Implementation Strategy on a regular basis;
 - Continue to negotiate for the provision of City-owned child care space within private developments as appropriate;
 - Continue to encourage donations and contributions to the Child Care Development Reserve Fund and to review the process for allocation of these funds; and
 - Encourage provision of space for family child care in all assisted-rental housing projects developed under senior government programs.
2. The City's Child Care Development Policy:
 - acknowledges that quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees;
 - commits the City to being an active partner with senior governments, parents, the private sector and co-operative sectors, and the community, to develop and maintain a comprehensive child care system in Richmond.

- **Child Care Development Advisory Committee**

The Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC), established in 1993 as the Child Care Development Board, is an Advisory Committee to Council whose purpose is to provide advice to Richmond City Council regarding the development of quality, affordable and accessible child care, with the goal of planning for and supporting quality child care in Richmond. CCDAC advises Council on child care funding, policy and infrastructure, including the administration of the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund. CCDAC advises Council regarding the need for advocacy to senior levels of government and other child care stakeholders. CCDAC also works with the Richmond community to determine the status of child care, support the development of child care spaces in Richmond, and increase public awareness of child care issues.

- **Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund**

The Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund was established in 1994 to hold private and city contributions for child care facilities development. The Reserve is used by Council to allocate funds for major (e.g., facility construction) and minor (e.g., equipment) capital expenses, and other capital uses that reflect the City's Child Care Development Policy.

- **City-Owned Child Care Facilities**

Four City-owned child care facilities were constructed between 1996 and 1999. The City negotiated these four facilities during the Development Application process of specific high density housing projects.

- Terra Nova Children's Centre
- Riverside Children's Centre
- Cook Road Children's Centre
- Treehouse Early Learning Centre

Four new City-owned child care facilities have recently been negotiated in West Cambie, Bridgeport, Shellmont, Hamilton and City Centre that will provide approximately 250 new spaces.

In addition, community centres throughout the City offer preschool and school-age care.

- **Child Care Grants**

Richmond City Council occasionally makes funds available from the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund to assist (1) non-profit licensed child care providers and (2) non-profit societies supporting the provision of child care with capital funding to develop and enhance the delivery of child care services to the families of Richmond.

The grants are provided to assist non-profit licensed child care providers with a one-time capital expense that will improve the quality, availability and accessibility of child care in Richmond (e.g., equipment, furnishings, playground improvements, minor renovations). Other non-profit societies may apply for capital expenses that support quality child care programming and professional development (e.g., equipment, supplies, manuals) for the enhancement of care provided by any or all licensed or registered Richmond child care providers.

- **Child Care Needs Assessments**

The City intermittently conducts Child Care Needs Assessments to assist in making Richmond the most appealing, livable and well-managed City in Canada by:

- identifying child care changes and trends;
- projecting Richmond child care needs;
- providing information, options and recommendations as to how to support the continued development of child care services;
- proposing community stakeholder and senior government actions; and
- furthering Richmond's role as a leader in child care.