



To:	Richmond City Council	Date:	January 9, 2008
From:	Councillor Harold Steves, Chair Planning Committee	File:	07-3070-03-01
Re:	PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE MAJOR CAPITAL FUNDING		

The Planning Committee, at its meeting held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) That Ms. Hoepfner's application for Provincial Child Care Major Capital Funding be supported, and that Council's support be conveyed to the Provincial Child Care Programs and Services Branch, B.C. Ministry of Child and Family Development.*
- (2) That a letter be sent to the Provincial Government to request that it re-examine the time frame requirements for applying for funding and the deadlines for commencing construction, in order to allow for more success by applicants.*
- (3) That staff liaise with The Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) to enquire as to the possibility of using extra school classrooms for child care purposes.*

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Planning Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended Part (1) and that Committee added Parts (2) and (3).

Staff Report

Origin

On October 5th, 2007, the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development announced a Provincial Child Care Major Capital Funding Program.

This report outlines community requests for City support and recommended City action.

Findings Of Fact

1. Background

In October, the Province announced a new Major Capital Funding Program for the creation of new child care spaces. This program consists of four funding streams, summarized in **Attachment 1**:

1. Creation of New Family Child Care Spaces
2. Creation of New Child Care Spaces – Non-Profit and Private Sector Organizations
3. Creation of New Child Care Spaces in Schools and Public Buildings
4. Creation of Community Hubs

The total provincial budget for all streams of Major Capital Funding is \$12.5 million, intended to create 2,000 new spots by 2010. Allocation of funds to the four streams is not pre-determined and will depend on the number of applications received and how well funding criteria are met.

The deadline for these applications was November 30th, 2007 (60 days), with an additional deadline of January 31st, 2008 (120 days) for the creation of new child care spaces in schools and public buildings.

The province is unable to indicate at this point if future Major Capital Funding programs will be announced.

2. Eligibility

For the first time, private sector family child care providers and private sector group care providers are eligible, in addition to non-profit providers. Local governments and other public bodies are also eligible to apply.

Local government is eligible to apply for all categories above except #1 (New Family Child Care Spaces).

3. Requests of the City

For the November 30th, 2007 deadline (applicable to all four categories), no requests for capital assistance were received by the City.

However, a request was received from Ms. Hoepfner, for a letter of support from the City to accompany her application to MCFD for funding of a proposed private child care business. No City financial contributions were requested regarding this application.

For the January 31st, 2007 deadline pertaining only to the "Creation of New Child Care Spaces in Schools & Public Buildings" category, one request was received on December 10th, 2007, from Richmond Youth Services Agency (RYSA) (**Attachment 2**).

Analysis

1. City application

Existing City land/facilities

To determine if the City might make application for Provincial Major Capital Funding to assist with the creation or expansion of City-owned child care spaces for lease to non-profit child care providers, staff explored whether or not any City-owned facilities or land were suitable for this purpose.

No City-owned facilities or land were identified by staff as appropriate for renovation or construction of new child care spaces (work is still progressing on the Hamilton site, for which the City provided land in 2006 to enable the Society of Richmond's Children Centres to receive Provincial Major Capital funding to construct a new child care facility).

The PRCS Facilities Strategic Plan (endorsed by Council in June 2007) details the outstanding need for additional spaces to meet already identified community need. The 2008 Capital Plan includes funding for a feasibility study for a Community Recreation Centre in the City Centre (which potentially could include child care). However, no existing unused City owned space has been identified.

It should also be noted that the requirement to commence construction within four months of the funding agreement is challenging, given the current conditions of the construction market, and timelines to obtain development approvals. Depending on the site, a Development Permit may be required (such as is the case with the current child care project being undertaken in Hamilton by the Society of Richmond's Children's Centres). Development Permit processes typically take between 4 to 6 months.

New Private Developments (e.g., rezonings)

Staff also explored whether or not new developments might provide an opportunity for either the City or community partners to secure provincial funding for new child care spaces by the specified deadlines. As provincial eligibility criteria include commencement of construction within four months of the funding agreement, staff identified new developments conforming with this time-frame.

None of the new developments conforming with this time frame were found to be viable places for new child care spaces. Decisions regarding amenity or commercial space have usually been finalized well before the “four months to construction” requirement allows and pre-sales have typically commenced.

2. School District

School District staff expressed interest but found the time-frame requirement (construction commencement within four months) could not be met for either the November 30th, 2007 or January 31st, 2008 deadlines.

3. Community applications

A.) November 30th, 2007 Deadline (all categories)

Child care professionals in the community, as well as the School District and Richmond Health Services, were contacted to determine if any Richmond-based non-profits, businesses or public bodies were considering submitting proposals.

No non-profit child care providers were identified as applying for the November 30th deadline, due to:

- lack of suitable facilities and land for new spaces,
- lack of sufficient capital needed to meet provincial requirements
- staffing shortages caused by the low wages and poor benefits available to early childhood educators, and
- meeting other application criteria by the deadlines.

Ms Hoepfner's request

One private Richmond-based child care provider (Ms Hoepfner) submitted an application for the November 30th deadline for the creation of new child care spaces at 12151 Shell Road in Richmond and requested a letter of support for her application.

As a letter of support was required for the November 30th, 2007 deadline, a draft letter of City staff support for this application was circulated to CCDAC for endorsement. CCDAC currently consists of seven voting members plus non-voting School Board and Council Liaisons. As three of the seven CCDAC voting members have involvement in the proposal, the City letter of support for this initiative was circulated to the remaining four CCDAC members for endorsement, which was received.

Staff provided Ms Hoepfner with a staff letter of support based on City Child Care and related policies, the 2001 – 2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment, and the merit of the application (**Attachment 3**).

Council's support of this application is now being sought.

B.) January 31st, 2008 Deadline (Creation of New Child Care Spaces in Schools and Public Buildings)

One of the four funding streams, "Creation of New Child Care Spaces in Schools and Public Buildings", has a second deadline of January 31st, 2007.

RYSA Request

With respect to the RYSA request, no City facilities were identified by staff as suitable for housing a 25-space child care centre, either in their present state or with renovations or additions for the same reasons as identified above.

Should such City facilities become available, a request such as RYSA's would be subject to City evaluation criteria such as those developed by CCDAC for the 2006 proposal call (**Attachment 4**). An evaluation process would also be initiated including the involvement of CCDAC members.

4. Next Steps

A.) New developments

As suitable space for new or expanded child care centres is extremely difficult to come by in Richmond, and particularly for non-profit child care providers, new developments requiring rezoning must continue to be reviewed for the provision of such space.

Staff are currently negotiating for the inclusion of group child care centres in new rezoning developments (e.g., in West Cambie, City Centre, Bridgeport). Should future Provincial Major Capital Funding opportunities arise, having pre-negotiated spaces will help to ensure that the City and non-profit child care providers will meet the project commencement requirements of future Provincial Major Child Care Capital funding opportunities.

B.) Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund

On December 10th, 2007, Council approved setting aside \$316,000 from the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund (current total approximately \$355,000) in the 2008 Capital Budget to ensure that City funds are available to cost share in Provincial programs, to support non-profit providers' (subject to meeting evaluation criteria), and related child care needs.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

New child care spaces are needed in Richmond and are necessary for the "livability" of our City. Ms. Hoepfner's proposal will provide new spaces for toddlers and three-to-five year olds in a suitable location.

December 17th, 2007

- 6 -

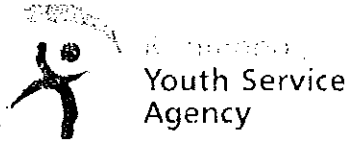
Staff recommend Council support for Ms. Hoepfner's application for Provincial Child Care Major Capital Funding.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Sherlock".

Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(4220)

LS:cas

Funding Stream	Who May Apply	Amount Available	For What	Funding Criteria includes	Deadline
<p>New Family Child Care Spaces</p>	<p>Family Child Care Providers (up to 8 children in) – Sole proprietors, partnerships or limited companies</p>	<p>Up to \$380 per space created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of existing child care facility - Creation of new child care facility - Equipment and furnishings to support new spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue operation for a minimum of one year from project completion, etc. - project will commence within 4 months of funding agreement 	<p>Applications reviewed and approved on an on-going basis.</p>
<p>New Child Care Spaces – Non Profit and Private Sector Organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non profits - businesses - public institutions - local government - bands/tribal councils 	<p>(a) Non Profits 1. Targeted: - 90%, up to \$500,000 2. Regular: - 75%, up to \$500,000 (b) Private Sector 1. Targeted: - 90%, up to \$250,000 2. Regular: - 75%, up to \$250,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of existing child care facility - Creation of new child care facility - Equipment and furnishings to support new spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue operation for 5 or 10 years, depending on category and ownership of facility - project will commence within 4 months of funding agreement 	<p>November 30, 2007</p>
<p>New Child Care Spaces – In Schools and Public Buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non profits - businesses - public institutions - local government - bands/tribal councils 	<p>1. In Existing Public School Space - 100% funding up to \$50,000 per room to a maximum of \$250,000 2. In Existing Private School Space – 90%, up to \$50,000 per room to a maximum of \$250,000 3. In Existing Post-Secondary or Government Buildings - Public Buildings: 100% funding, up to \$50,000 per room, to a maximum of \$250,000 - Private post-secondary buildings: 90%, up to \$50,000 per room, to a maximum of \$250,000</p>	<p>Conversion of existing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public school or post-secondary space - Private school or post-secondary space - Government building space - Equipment and furnishings to support new spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue operation until end of lease, or for 5 or 10 years, depending on category and ownership of facility - project will commence within 4 months of funding agreement 	<p>November 30, 2007 or January 31, 2008</p>
<p>Creation of Community Hubs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non profits - public institutions - local government - bands/tribal councils 	<p>100% capital funding to a maximum of \$250,000 - up to \$30,000 for hub development, e.g., project manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - co-location of 2 or more family-strengthening or early childhood development services, along with a licensed child care service - new construction - renovation - moving/relocating equipment and furnishings - hub development costs, e.g., project manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - funding contingent on the creation of new licensed child care spaces in the hub (funded separately) - funding is for costs required for the co-location of other services - makes use of existing space and resources 	<p>November 30, 2007</p>



December 10th, 2007

Attn.: Lesley Sherlock
 Social Planner, City of Richmond
 130-8040 Garden City Road,
 Richmond, BC V6Y 2N9

Re: Capital opportunity for new child care spaces

As you are aware RYSA has been working hard for the last 30 years to improve the lives of children, youth and families within our community. During the last three years we have identified a number of areas we could apply our experience, resources and energies in support of our future, the children and youth of today. One of these areas is to support the needs of children in the middle childhood range and provide positive and supportive activities for them after school when they are often left unsupervised or unable to be involved in activities that they want to be¹. With the recent request for proposals by the province to support the adaptation of community spaces to create new child care spaces we are looking to partner with the city in the development of 25 new after school care spaces for children between the ages of 7 to 12 years of age that will be run and operated by RYSA on a cost recovery basis. Funding for the operational costs will be obtained by RYSA. We are requesting use of space to provide this service with costs for renovations to be requested through this capital call for proposals.

Recent research of the needs of children in the middle childhood range and the impact of *Success by 6* has made it clear that a continuum of support must be in place to assist families and children to navigate from early childhood, through middle childhood and into adolescence. Providing fun, engaging, supportive, safe and affordable programs and activities after school for children in Richmond is a necessary step in this continuum. Currently these type of programs and activities are in short supply for children in the middle childhood range, or are out of reach financially for many families. Without these types of programs and activities many children will be left unsupervised and not positively engaged. As you are aware, this has been shown to limit the development in key areas that help them thrive, and puts them at risk both now and in the future.

The development of after school programs for this age group addresses one of the highest needs identified for child care in Richmond². RYSA wants to develop a model that ensures children and families who are in need of these services are able to access them at a cost that they can afford. To this end, we are looking for innovative partnerships for space and resources that coincide with areas identified to have higher numbers of children at risk and higher levels of poverty. The funding available through the province for capital costs required to renovate existing "community space" and develop new child care spaces is an important opportunity. The location 25 new spaces would preferably be created in an area of Richmond identified by EDI numbers³, and other indicators such as the number of child care spaces per capita. These numbers clearly identify areas of Richmond with higher needs for these type of services. The

¹ Middle Childhood Inside and Out, 2007 by the United Way and University of British Columbia

² The 2001 - 2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment, Chapter 5

³ The EDI (Early Development Instrument) is a validated survey instrument used to gauge the 'readiness for school' of populations of 5-year olds as they enter kindergarten.

primary areas identified are: Cambie which has 35.1% of the children at risk, and East Richmond with over 30% of the children at risk. East Richmond also has one of the lowest number of child care spaces per 1000 children under 13⁴. Secondary areas identified for the services include: Blundell, City Centre, and Bridgeport/Sea Island. All of these areas have over 30% of the children living their identified as vulnerable⁵. It is our long term goal to connect our community and support our children and youth to thrive and reach for their dreams. Creating sustainable after school support programs that capitalize on community assets, are affordable for parents and operate in areas with the greatest need will support this goal.

We will continue to engage the corporate sector to support the services and activities for these projects. Currently, Business Objects and Scotia McLeod are actively involved in a pilot after school club. This project helps children in elementary school with their homework in an engaging environment that promotes learning as fun. Business Objects supports tutoring programs that engage older youth to tutor children age 7 to 12. Scotia McLeod provides bursaries, financial support for tutoring and stay in school grants recognizing children and youth in our community whom overcome barriers and personal challenges to graduate or move from an alternative program into mainstream school programs. We have also been successful in obtaining funding for a van from the Helping Hands Foundation of WorkSafe BC and are able to distribute tickets to local children, youth and families in a partnership with Kids Up Front. With these supports we have developed a model that provides supervision, positive role modeling, takes advantage of community assets and promotes the development of assets in the children and youth we support. The next step is to develop a home for this after school care program.

Thank you for taking the time to review our request and needs. We know this is a valuable service and greatly needed in our community. We hope the project will also provide an opportunity for us to promote the child care industry as a viable career option for youth and will be incorporating volunteer youth and practicum students into the service model. Currently we have over 20 youth that have been trained as tutors to support this project. I look forward to your response and meeting with you to discuss next steps.

Sincerely,

Marshall Thompson
Executive Director
Richmond Youth Service Agency
604-271-7600 ext 120
marshallt@rysa.bc.ca

⁴ The 2001 - 2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment, Page 13 Table E

⁵ <http://ecdportal.help.ubc.ca/> Community Summary for Richmond



City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Telephone (604) 276-4000

www.city.richmond.bc.ca

November 29, 2007

File:

Planning and Development Department

Fax: 604-276-4052

Child Care Capital Funding Program Administrator
 Child Care Programs and Services Branch
 Ministry of Children and Family Development
 PO Box 9965 STN PROV GOVT
 Victoria BC V8W 9R4

Dear Program Administrator:

Re: Application by Ms. Hoepfner for Major Capital Funding for Creation of New Child Care Spaces

Purpose

This is a letter of support from City of Richmond staff for Ms. Hoepfner's application for Major Capital Funding under the category "Major Capital Funding for Creation of New Child Care Spaces – Non Profit and Private Sector Organizations".

Proposal

Ms. Hoepfner is applying as a private sector organization to open 32 new child care spaces (12 toddler, and 20 group 3 – 5 yrs.) at 12151 Shell Road in Richmond.

Funding

For private sector organizations, the Province is contributing up to 75% to a maximum of \$250,000 for creating licensed group child care spaces. The remaining costs will be the responsibility of the proponent.

No City financial contributions are being requested or considered regarding this application for Provincial Major Capital Funding.

City Support for New Child Care Spaces

City Policy #4017, 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, stakeholders, parents, the private and co-operative sectors, and the community, to develop and maintain a quality and affordable comprehensive child care system in Richmond, and
- encourages adequate child care centre facilities throughout the City where needed, particularly in each new community.

2001 – 2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment

The 2001 – 2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment indicated that no group care for children under three exists in South Central Richmond. This area also had the lowest child care vacancy rate of anywhere in the municipality outside of East Richmond.

In 2006, the Child Care Development Advisory Committee prepared an update on child care space needs, indicating that in Shellmont in 2001, there were 899 children aged birth to 6 and 87 regulated spaces (10%), indicating a significant shortfall.

Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC)

CCDAC is a Council-appointed advisory committee whose mandate is to provide Council with advice regarding the planning, development, support and promotion of a range of quality, affordable and accessible child care in the City of Richmond.

CCDAC has endorsed this letter of support.

Children and Youth Asset Building

In February, 2005 Council endorsed the vision for “Richmond to be the best place in North America to raise children and youth”. An adequate supply of accessible, affordable quality child care spaces is essential for Richmond to become the best place in North America to raise children.

Strength of proposal

Ms. Hoepfner’s application supports a key area of need in Richmond, that being the creation of 12 new toddler spaces and 20 new group 3 – 5 spaces for a total of 32 new spaces.

To qualify for Provincial Major Capital Funding, the applicant must ensure that the child care facility is willing to serve families who access Child Care Subsidy and children requiring extra supports. Ms. Hoepfner has also indicated her intention to provide scholarships for low income families, and to share space with community groups on evenings and weekends.

City Process

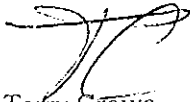
As Council will not review this child care application to the Province until January 2008 due to Council’s December meeting schedule, Council’s comments on this application cannot be provided until after the Provincial application deadline of November 30, 2007. The Child Care Programs and Services Branch will be notified immediately following Council’s decision.

Request

Please accept this letter as Richmond staff support for Ms. Hoepfner’s proposal. This interim support is given until Council has had the opportunity to review the matter.

For clarification, please contact Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner at 604-276-4220 or myself at 604-276-4139.

Yours truly,



Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

TTC:ls

pc: Mayor and Council
Joe Erceg, MCIP, General Manager, Planning and Development
Cathryn Volkering Carlile, General Manager - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner

**Child Care Capital Funding Program: Major Capital Funding for Creation of New
Child Care Spaces. January 2006**

Proposed Criteria for Applications to City of Richmond for Assistance.

Preamble:

In the City of Richmond Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan there is a commitment by the City to a Relationship Based Approach.

"To achieve Richmond's vision, the tradition of citizens, organizations, government agencies and the City working together, cooperatively and collaboratively, must be nurtured and expanded. Meeting the community's current and future needs is beyond the capacity of the public sector, private sector or not-for-profit sector alone – all must work together to make this happen. All parties must accept and share responsibility for the community's social, economic, environmental and cultural well being.

Building relationships between and among quality- of-life service providers is critical to the sustainable success of the system. These relationships will help ensure effective and efficient use of scarce resources and will lead to exciting new service delivery relationships for the community. Creating a strong, connected community depends on Richmond's quality-of-life organizations working together"

Criteria for Applications to City of Richmond for Assistance.

Preference will be given to those proposals where:

1. The child care spaces to be created are co-located with other children/family services (eg. community hubs).
2. An organization can provide a clear demonstration that the project provides much needed child care that is not currently available in the community
3. An organization is a non-profit society in good standing with BC Corporate Registry.
4. An organization must prove that they are financially viable and have a solid business plan for operation of the child care facility
5. An organization has a proven record showing that they have the knowledge, skills and experience to undertake the project.
6. If currently licensed, are in compliance with the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and Child Care Licensing Regulation, or if not yet operating, in the process of obtaining a license under *the Community Care and Assisted Living Act*.
7. Proposed facility is complementary to existing child care programs in the City
8. The child care facility will service families receiving Child Care Subsidy
9. The child care facility will service families with children with special needs requiring extra supports
10. The organization will demonstrate a commitment to the principles of quality, affordable, accessible and developmentally appropriate early childhood programs.
11. Demonstrated support and partnerships from within the Richmond community for the proposed project.

Prepared by:

Child Care Development Board, January 2006