

City of Richmond

Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy

2018 Update



Community Social Development Department



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Introduction

The 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy provides insight into the status of child care in Richmond and provides a five year plan for the City and its stakeholders to support the development of a healthy child care system in the community. The City of Richmond is a municipal leader in fostering the conditions necessary for expanding and enhancing child care choices for Richmond’s resident and employee populations. The City recognizes that child care is critically important to its residents, is an essential need for working parents, and supports parents who are pursuing their education. A key goal of the City’s commitment to child care is to promote the establishment and ongoing maintenance of a comprehensive child care system.

The City of Richmond demonstrates a commitment to child care by partnering with other levels of government and the private and non-profit sectors to create child care spaces. The City also commits to child care through the Child Care Development Policy and by undertaking periodic child care needs assessments. The City acquires child care facilities through rezoning and community amenity contributions which are owned by the City and leased to non-profit child care operators.

The Provincial Government is responsible for child care legislation, policy, facility licensing, and provides income-tested subsidies for families. The Provincial Government also provides grants to support operating costs, repairs and maintenance of facilities, capital funding to create new spaces and direct reductions to child care fees for families. Early learning, education and child care fall primarily under Provincial jurisdiction, and the Federal Government role is limited largely to the transfer of funds to Provincial and Territorial Governments for allocation to early childhood programs and services. The Federal Government also provides the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) to families with children under the age of 18 years.

City Council adopted the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy on July 24, 2017 and implementation of the actions outlined has been ongoing since this time. Since the Strategy was adopted, there has been significant progress in addressing the short term and ongoing actions. The following report provides a high-level summary of the accomplishments and endeavours that the City and community have achieved in the eighteen month period since the adoption of the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy.

About the Strategy

The 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy is the fourth child care needs assessment and strategy undertaken by the City of Richmond since 1995. These documents have helped to guide the City’s actions and initiatives to support the provision of child care in Richmond. In 2016, the City of Richmond conducted a comprehensive review and analysis of Richmond’s current child care landscape in order to forecast and plan for the future needs of residents and child care providers. The results of a comprehensive community engagement process were used to develop a City child care strategy for the next five years. The 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy recommends that the City and other stakeholders work together to address the need for quality, affordable, accessible child care spaces in Richmond.

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify key priorities and needs for child care in Richmond over the next five years, and provide a resource for the City, child care operators, and community partners to address current and future child care needs. To obtain information for the review, an extensive community engagement process was conducted and resource materials were gathered. At the time the needs assessment was conducted in 2016, the supply of licensed child care spaces in Richmond had increased to 5,802 spaces from 3,974 spaces in 2009. On a per capita basis, the estimated number of licensed child care spaces rose from 15 spaces per 100 children aged 12 years and under in 2009 to 24 spaces per 100 children aged 12 years and under in 2016. Despite the increase in child care spaces, parents continue to face challenges finding suitable and affordable placements for their children, especially for infant and toddler care, school-age care, and inclusive child care for children requiring extra support. Families acknowledged the many benefits of having child care facilities located in close proximity to complementary child and family services.





Implementation of a Provincial Child Care Plan—Budget 2018

In February 2018, the Province of BC released “Child Care BC, the Path to Universal Child Care”, a plan that outlines a series of steps towards a comprehensive system of child care across the Province in order to better meet the needs of children and families. The Child Care BC plan will have a direct impact on parents and child care providers in Richmond.

Details of the plan address and include the following:

- Currently, B.C. does not have a coordinated child care system. Child care providers operate independently, currently adhere to a range of provincial and municipal rules and regulations, and face challenges with workforce recruitment and retention.
- The current market-based system is not meeting the demand for child care spaces and research indicates that there are many challenges associated with market-based models when there is unmet demand, leaving them fragmented and unaccountable.
- The 2018 Provincial Budget included \$1 billion in new investments in child care and early learning over the next three years. It lays the foundation for a province-wide universal child care system.
- The Federal Government invested \$153 million into Child Care B.C. as part of the Early Learning and Child Care Framework. This funding will be put towards increasing the number of infant and toddler child care spaces in areas of highest need, providing low-cost infant and toddler care spaces, supporting culturally appropriate care for Indigenous families, and other initiatives meant to support vulnerable families.
- The Province’s plan for early care and learning is to move from the current patchwork of programs and services towards universal child care that is affordable and accessible for families.

Since February 2018 when this Provincial Budget was announced, the Province has implemented a number of new funding initiatives to address and respond to issues in the child care sector including high fees for parents, lack of licensed spaces and training and wages for Early Childhood Educators.

The Provincial Government has introduced or implemented several new or enhanced programs to reduce child care fees for parents, build more licensed spaces, increase the number of qualified Early Childhood Educators and retain and support Early Childhood Educators working in the field. These funding programs will bring much needed relief to many families and provide opportunities for child care providers.

Additional funding announcements have also created initiatives to directly support municipalities to plan for and develop child care. Below is a summary of these new initiatives.

- New Spaces Fund: A fund that supports the creation of 22,000 new child care spaces in B.C.
 - Up to \$1 million per facility for public-sector partnerships with non-profit child care providers; up to \$500,000 per facility for school boards, Indigenous organizations/Band or Tribal Councils and First Nations Governments, child development centres, and non-profit child care providers; and up to \$250,000 per facility for private child care providers.
- Community Child Care Planning Program: Funding to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan.
 - Eligible projects can receive up to \$25,000.
- Community Child Care Space Creation Program: Funding for local governments to create approximately 1,370 new licensed child care spaces within their own facilities for children aged 0-5 years.
 - \$1 million per project with funds from the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the Government of Canada.



The 2018 Provincial Budget will deliver **\$1 BILLION** in new investments in child care and early learning over the next three years

City staff are currently reviewing the information on all funding initiatives to determine which, if any, may be relevant to Richmond to address some of the key challenges and priorities that are identified in the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy. City staff will continue to monitor future funding announcements to understand potential opportunities to partner with other organizations and create new child care spaces.





Updated Child Care Profile

As part of the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, City staff completed an analysis of the licensed child care spaces in 2016 and projected population trends by Richmond planning area. Due to the inaccessibility of 2016 Census data at the time, population values were based on the Richmond School District’s population data prepared by Baragar Systems. The City received 2016 Census data in 2018, and combined with updated licensed child care spaces data, an updated Child Care Profile has been completed.

In December 2018 there were 6,439 licensed child care spaces, offering approximately 640 more child care spaces than in 2016. The number of licensed child care spaces has continued to increase each year since data was first collected in 1995; at that time there were 2,436 licensed child care spaces in Richmond. The number of child care spaces has increased for all types of child care since 2016, with the exception of family child care and preschool (Table 1). Between 2016 and 2018, there has been a significant increase in the number of licensed child care spaces in group care (under 36 months), in-home multi-age care, and group care (30 months to school-age). The number of licensed school age care spaces has not increased significantly since 2016, which is indicative of a continuing need to address the shortage of school age care spaces in Richmond, as identified in the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy.

Table 1: Trends in Licensed Child Care Spaces in Richmond: 2016–2018¹

Type of Care	2016	2018	Change (2016–2018)	% Change (2016–2018)
Group Care–Under 36 months	664	928	264	39.8%
Group Care–30 months to school-age	2,103	2,581	478	22.7%
Family Child Care	341	234	-107	-31.4%
In-home Multi-age Care	81	104	23	28.4%
Multi-age Group Care	88	96	8	9.1%
Group Care – School-age	1,666	1,685	19	1.1%
Preschool	819	769	-50	-6.1%
Occasional Care	40	42	2	5.0%
Total	5,802	6,439	637	11.0%

According to a Metro Vancouver study, A Municipal Survey of Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver (2015), Richmond had an estimated 22.4 child care spaces per 100 children aged 12 years and younger in 2015. In comparison, the Metro Vancouver average was 18.5 licensed child care spaces per 100 children according to this study. As of 2018, there are 27.5 child care spaces per

¹ Accurate data as of December 7, 2018

100 children in Richmond. Ideally there would be an adequate number of child care spaces to accommodate the majority of children in the community.

When looking at child care supply and need by planning area, there are many areas of Richmond that do not have an adequate number of child care spaces in comparison to the surrounding child population. The planning areas of Bridgeport (13.3 spaces per 100 children), West Cambie (15.9 spaces per 100 children), Thompson (17.0 spaces per 100 children) and Blundell (17.1 spaces per 100 children) all reflect supplies of child care well below the Richmond average. In comparison, the planning areas of East Richmond (71.2 spaces per 100 children) and East Cambie (48.1 spaces per 100 children) have child care supply above most of the other planning areas, reflecting a balanced supply and demand relationship for the area (Figure 1). The planning areas of Gilmore and Sea Island have a total number of child care spaces that exceeds the child population, partially due to the very low child populations in these areas (Table 2).

The City Centre planning area remains a priority focus for increasing child care supply, as many new developments are being built bring an increase in residential units for families and increases to working populations. The City strives to plan for an anticipated increased need for child care in the City Centre area by acquiring Early Childhood Development (ECD) Hubs through community amenity contributions, with a goal of having an ECD Hub in each City Centre Village, as outlined in the City’s City Centre Area Plan. An ECD Hub provides both licensed child care and family strengthening and support services in one location thus creating easier access to services that support families, enhance parenting capacity and facilitate relationships and natural support networks for parents.

Figure 1: Licensed Child Care Spaces per 100 Child Population aged 0–12 years, by Planning Area

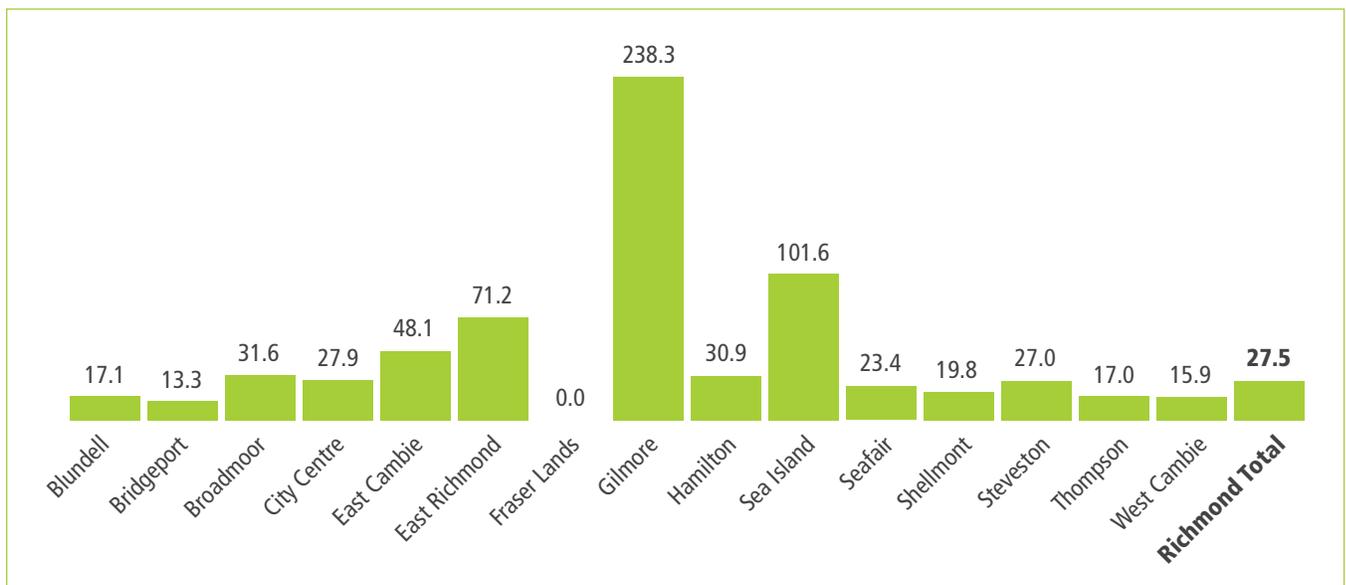


Table 2: Total Licensed Child Care Spaces per 100 Children by Planning Area

Planning Area	Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces (Total)	Child Population (0–12 years)	Child Care Spaces per 100 Children Aged 0–12 Years
Blundell	351	2,050	17.1
Bridgeport	55	415	13.3
Broadmoor	874	2,770	31.6
City Centre	1,499	5,370	27.9
East Cambie	666	1,385	48.1
East Richmond	267	375	71.2
Fraser Lands	0	10	0.0
Gilmore	143	60	238.3
Hamilton	252	815	30.9
Sea Island	127	125	101.6
Seafair	459	1,965	23.4
Shellmont	284	1,435	19.8
Steveston	925	3,425	27.0
Thompson	344	2,025	17.0
West Cambie	193	1,215	15.9
Richmond Total	6,439	23,440	27.5



When looking at specific types of child care supply and demand, group care (under 36 months), group care (30 months to school-age), and group care (school-age) spaces were compared against child populations to understand the current demand based on child age. These programs typically provide full day child care intended to support families who are working or going to school. When looking at 2018 licensed child care supply in Richmond, spaces for children aged 0 to 2 years and 6 to 12 years exhibited the lowest number of child care spaces per 100 children. There are currently 17.7 group care (under 36 months) spaces per 100 children and 13.1 group care (school-age) spaces per 100 children in Richmond. In comparison, there are presently 48.6 licensed child care spaces per 100 children for 3 to 5 year olds in group child care (Table 3). The 2016 child care needs assessment identified group care (under 36 months) and group care (school-age) as priority areas that require an increase in the supply of licensed spaces. While the overall child care supply has increased in Richmond since 2016, including an increase of 39.8% of spaces for group care (under 36 months), the supply of group care (school-age) has decreased in relation to the 6 to 12 years population (Table 4)². School-age care continues to be a priority for the City in order to increase the availability of child care spaces for this age group.

² No age-specific population data was available for other ages in 2016, therefore school-age care was the only type of care reported in this manner in 2016.

Table 3: Group Child Care Spaces per 100 Children by Type of Child Care License

Type of Child Care License	Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces	Child Population	Child Care Spaces per 100 Children
Group Care (Under 36 Months)	928	5,255	17.7
Group Care (36 Months to School-Age)	2,581	5,310	48.6
Licensed Group Care (School-Age)	1,685	12,875	13.1
Total	6,439³	23,440	27.5

Table 4: Licenced Group Care (School-Age) Spaces per 100 Children by Planning Area (2016 and 2018)

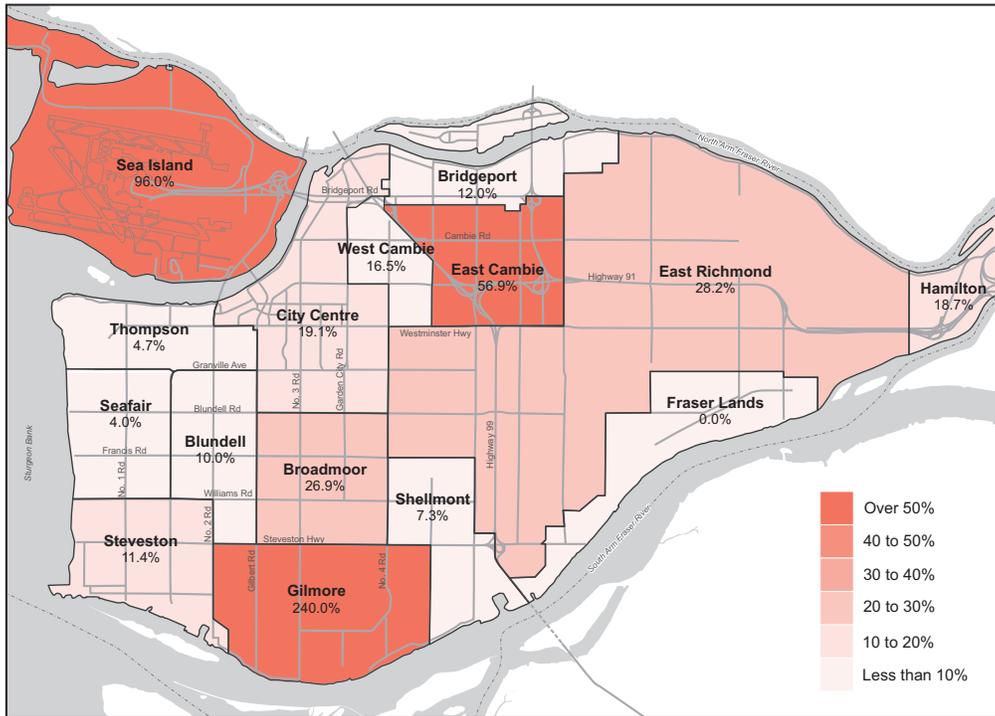
Planning Area	Group Care—School-Age Spaces per 100 Children Aged 6–12 Years (2016) ⁴	Group Care—School-Age Spaces per 100 Children Aged 6–12 Years (2018)	Change in Number of Child Care Spaces per 100 Children (2016–2018)
Blundell	10.1	9.4	-0.7
Bridgeport	0.00	8.2	8.2
Broadmoor	22.2	18.3	-3.9
City Centre	11.2	11.0	-0.2
East Cambie	18.3	14.1	-4.2
East Richmond	7.9	0.0	-7.9
Fraser Lands	0.0	0.0	0.00
Gilmore	19.6	44.4	24.8
Hamilton	25.5	23.3	-2.2
Sea Island	0.0	0.0	0.00
Seafair	18.1	8.7	-9.4
Shellmont	12.4	13.4	1.0
Steveston	20.0	17.3	-2.7
Thompson	5.7	7.2	1.5
West Cambie	8.3	3.3	-5.0
Richmond Total	14.9	13.1	-1.8

³ Includes family child care, multi-age care, in-home care, occasional care and preschool programs

⁴ Baragar Systems estimated population data from Richmond School District was used to calculate school age care spaces in the 2017–2022 *Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy*. This population data may include some children who are 5 years old.

The following three maps outline the percentage of children who have access to licensed group child care spaces in a given planning area for Group Care (Under 36 Months) (Figure 2), Group Care (36 Months to School-Age) (Figure 3) and Group Care (School-Age) (Figure 4).

Figure 2: Percent of Child Care Need Met for Children Aged 0 to 2 Years through Licensed Group Care (Under 36 Months), by Planning Area⁵

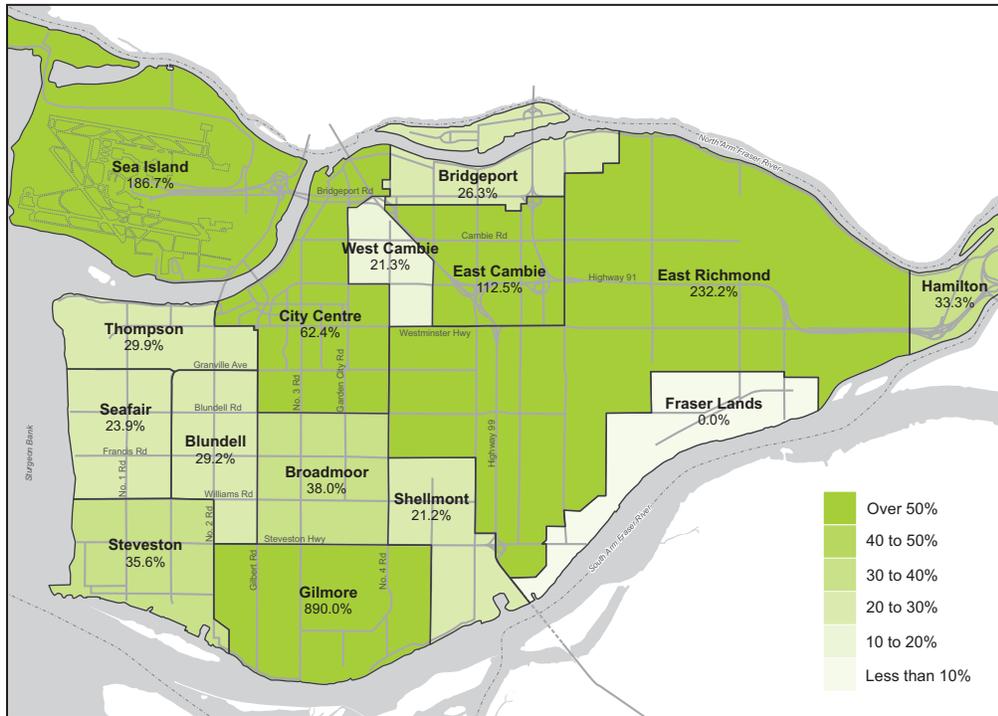


In 2016 there were only **9 SPACES** per 100 children aged 0 to 36 months in Richmond

In 2018 there were **17.7 GROUP CARE (UNDER 36 MONTHS) SPACES** per 100 children aged 0 to 2 years in Richmond

⁵ Does not include family child care, multi-age care, in-home care, occasional care or preschool programs.

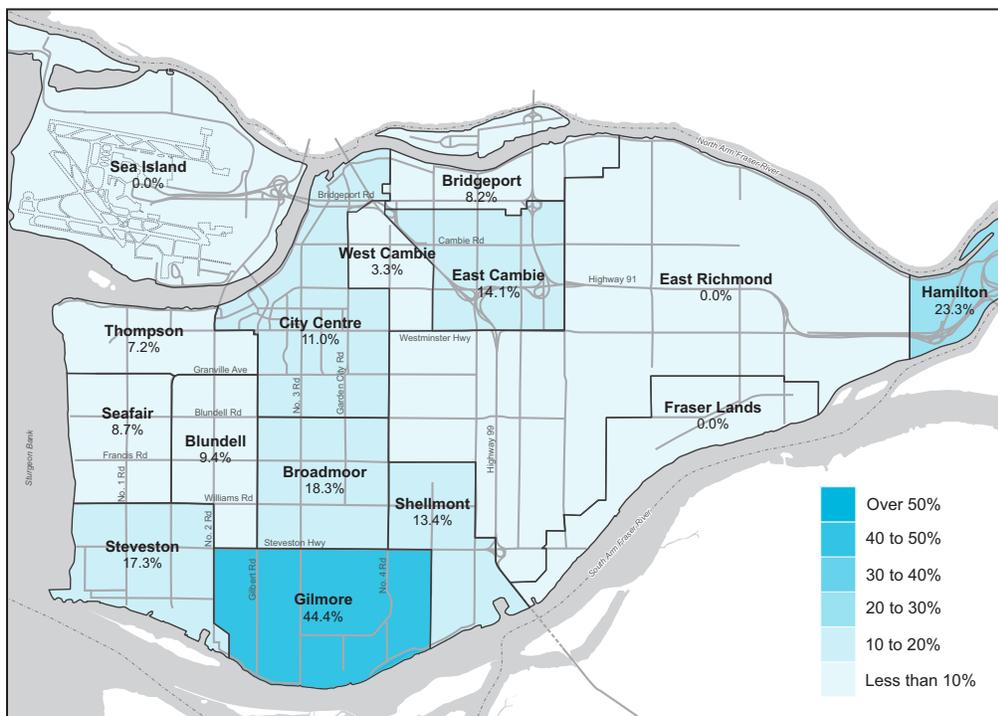
Figure 3: Percent of Child Care Need Met for Children Aged 3 to 5 Years through Licensed Group Care (36 Months to School-Age), by Planning Area⁶



In 2018 there were **48.6** **GROUP CARE (36 MONTHS TO SCHOOL AGE) SPACES** per 100 children aged 3 to 5 years in Richmond

* No children reside in Fraser Lands between the ages of 3 to 5 years. (Census, 2016)

Figure 4: Percent of Child Care Need Met for Children Aged 6 to 12 Years through Licensed Group Care (School-Age), by Planning Area⁶



Between 2016 and 2018 there was a **DECREASE OF 1.8%** in the number of child care spaces for school-aged children, per 100 children aged 6 to 12 years

⁶ Does not include family child care, multi-age care, in-home care, occasional care or preschool programs.

Strategic Directions

In the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, seven strategic directions and thirty-two recommended actions were adopted to address the current and future needs related to child care in Richmond. The seven strategic directions are:

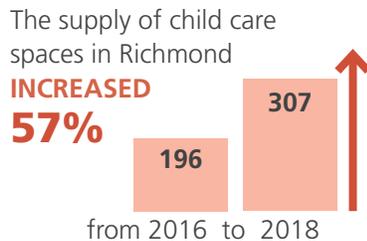
- 1 Strategic Direction #1:** Policy and Planning
- 2 Strategic Direction #2:** Creating and Supporting Spaces
- 3 Strategic Direction #3:** Advocacy
- 4 Strategic Direction #4:** Accessibility and Inclusion
- 5 Strategic Direction #5:** Collaboration and Partnership
- 6 Strategic Direction #6:** Research, Promotion and Marketing
- 7 Strategic Direction #7:** Monitoring and Renewal



Progress

The 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy outlines 32 recommended actions to accomplish throughout the five year time period. The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of accomplishments that have occurred since the implementation of this Strategy in July 2017.

To accommodate the growing need for child care due to population increases, three new City-owned child care facilities have opened since July 2017. In September 2017, Willow Early Care and Learning Centre opened, providing 37 child care spaces (12 spaces of infant/toddler and 25 spaces for 3-5 year olds) in the City Centre community. In the Summer of 2018, Gardens Children’s Centre and Seasong Child Care Centre opened, providing 37 spaces (12 spaces of infant/toddler and 25 spaces for 3-5 year olds) at each new City-owned child care facility. Since the implementation of the Strategy in 2017, the City has also secured a new Early Childhood Development Hub in the City Centre planning area, which will provide up to 87 new child care spaces, and child and family development programs and services. In total, 111 new child care spaces have been provided and 87 new child care spaces were secured for the future in City-owned child care facilities since the Strategy was first implemented. An additional 3 facilities, including an ECD Hub, that were secured prior to 2017, will provide a further 175 licensed child care spaces in the next few years. A snapshot of achieved indicators related to the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy recommended actions is listed within Appendix A. The City will continue to take ongoing action to address the need for child care spaces through opportunities to secure child care amenity and cash contributions through redevelopment in Richmond.



In total, existing and secured facilities will provide approximately **569 LICENSED CHILD CARE SPACES**

in City-owned purpose built facilities in Richmond as of 2018





1 Strategic Direction #1: Policy and Planning

Why is this important?

The City's role in child care policy and planning is to support the development and ongoing provision of an adequate supply of local child care spaces to meet the needs of resident and employee populations. This entails conducting periodic child care needs assessments and monitoring data sources to analyze trends and child care space needs and availability within the Richmond community. The City's role also involves the administration of the City's Child Care Grant Program and support to the Child Care Development Advisory Committee.

Highlighted Achievements

- In late 2018, the City obtained 2016 Canada Census population data by Planning Area from Statistics Canada. This enabled City staff to update the existing data available on the child population in Richmond, by City Planning Area and by specific ages of children. A complete update to the child population data, by City Planning Area and by age, as well as the resulting, anticipated child care needs based on of data on licensed child care spaces in Richmond collected in December 2018 was completed. An overview of this information is provided in the "Updated Child Care Profile" section at the beginning of this report.
- In 2018, a vulnerability review of all existing child care spaces in Richmond was conducted. This review was led by Community Social Development (Child Care) staff and done in partnership with the City's Development Applications and Policy Planning Departments. Child care programs located in vulnerable areas were identified. This information was then used to help City staff identify priority areas for future City-owned child care facilities to offset the potential closure or relocation of vulnerable child care programs. Vulnerable programs were identified as being located in leased space and in a facility that has an existing development, rezoning proposal or development inquiry regarding the space.
- A City Grants Use survey was created in 2018 to evaluate the Child Care Capital grant and the Child Care Professional and Program Development grant. An anticipated distribution date of February 2019 is planned, upon completion of the 2019 Grant Program. This survey is intended to provide feedback and information from grant applicants to support the evaluation of current grant streams and to inform the development or modification of future grant programs.
- Continued coordination with the City's Real Estate and Facility Services



Departments has enhanced procedures in maintaining and coordinating improvements within City-owned child care facilities. Annual reviews of all City-owned child care facilities have been initiated to assist with preventative maintenance and repairs and to plan for life cycle replacement of fixtures, electrical/mechanical and life-safety systems as needed. This has enhanced collaboration and coordinated planning between City staff and the non-profit operators.

- The Terms of Reference for the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) was updated in 2018, with input from City staff, City Clerks and CCDAC members. City Council approved these changes on November 13, 2018 and they took effect January 1, 2019. These changes were made to outline the Committee's advisory role and capacity, to improve clarity and to reflect organizational and operational updates including the creation of the Program Manager, Child Care position.





2 Strategic Direction #2: Creating and Supporting Spaces

Why is this important?

The City supports the creation of child care spaces by accepting voluntary contributions from developers in the form of built child care facilities or cash-in-lieu contributions to the City's Child Care Statutory Reserves. The City currently manages and maintains nine existing City-owned child care facilities and is in the process of developing two City-owned child care facilities and two Early Childhood Development Hubs. Dedicated City staff resources help to develop, maintain and support the child care system in Richmond.

Highlighted Achievements

- Three new, purpose built and state of the art, City-owned child care facilities have opened since July 2017, and are currently operating at capacity by non-profit child care operators. These include Willow Early Care and Learning Centre (37 spaces) operated by Atira Women's Resource Society, Gardens Children's Centre (37 spaces) operated by the Society of Richmond Children's Centres and Seasong Child Care (37 spaces) operated by the YMCA of Greater Vancouver.
- Ongoing design and development work continues on the Capstan Village Early Childhood Development Hub. In Summer 2018, the YMCA of Greater Vancouver was selected as the future operator of this innovative facility. This operator will provide up to 77 spaces of licensed child care, as well as child development and family strengthening services. These programs are anticipated to commence operations in late 2021.
- A building permit was issued and construction has begun on the Northview Estates Child Care Facility. In the Fall of 2018, the Atira Women's Resource Society was selected as the future operator of this facility. The Northview Estates Child Care Facility is expected to provide 61 licensed child care spaces and is anticipated to open in late 2019.
- The Brighthouse Village Early Childhood Development (ECD) Hub was secured through a rezoning application at 6340 No.3 Rd, a mixed-use development with one office tower and three residential towers. The Brighthouse Village ECD Hub will comprise up to 19,000 sq. ft. of indoor area and 11,300 sq. ft. of outdoor area. This facility will be licensed for 87 child care spaces and will also offer child development and family strengthening services. In Fall 2018, the Richmond Society for Community Living was selected as the successful operator of the Brighthouse Village ECD Hub, and will operate the licensed child care spaces, as well as wrap-around services and programming. The Brighthouse Village ECD Hub is expected to complete in 2022.
- Design is beginning for the future City-owned child care facility in Oval Village, within the ASPAC development. This child care facility will provide an additional 37 spaces of child care for this neighbourhood with completion anticipated for 2022. The anticipated program will deliver 12 child care spaces for infants and toddlers, and 25 spaces for 3-5 year olds.

3 CITY-OWNED CHILD CARE CENTRES were opened 

A total of **111** licensed child care spaces 

1 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB was approved 
+

3 City-owned facilities already secured will be developed 

These future facilities will accommodate an estimated **262 CHILD CARE SPACES** 



3 Strategic Direction #3: Advocacy



Why is this important?

The City advocates on behalf of its residents to address the needs of Richmond's resident and employee population. The responsibility to facilitate quality, accessible, and affordable child care is within the mandate of senior levels of government, and the actions below address advocacy items that the City can undertake.

Highlighted Achievements

- On February 1, 2018, a formal letter was sent to the Provincial Government from the City on behalf of several municipal staff working on child care issues in the Metro Vancouver municipalities. This letter was intended to inform the Provincial Government of challenges that municipalities currently face in regards to affordability, accessibility, quality of the workforce and sustainability. Within this letter, municipal planners from Metro Vancouver advocated for wage enhancements for Early Childhood Educators, a review of the eligibility and rates for the Child Care Subsidy, increased funding for the Supported Child Development Program, and expressed the desire to be consulted on a future publically funded child care plan. In the months following this letter, the Provincial Government implemented significant changes to address affordability through the new Affordable Child Care Benefit and Fee Reduction Initiative.
- In 2018, a letter was sent from the City to the Minister of State for Child Care, Minister Katrina Chen, regarding Child Care Funding and ECE Shortages. The letter recognized and acknowledged the Provincial Government's funding initiatives for child care in the 2018 Provincial Budget and highlighted the current challenges with the recruitment and retention of Early Childhood Educators impacting Richmond child care providers.
- Throughout 2018, new funding for child care was announced by the Provincial Government, including the Affordable Child Care Benefit, the Childcare BC Maintenance Fund, the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, enhancements to the Child Care Operating Funding, Start-up Grants, and the UBCM funding opportunities (Community Child Care Planning Grants for Local Governments, Community Child Care Space Creation Program for Local Governments). In addition, Universal Child Care Prototype Sites and increases to funding for Supported Child Development programs were announced in November 2018. City staff provided updates to City Council and to the Child Care Development Advisory Committee, responded to requests for information from community child care operators, and updated information on the City of Richmond website to ensure families had access to current information regarding these initiatives and the new Affordable Child Care Benefit.



4 Strategic Direction #4: Accessibility and Inclusion

Why is this important?

The City works to create an inclusive environment for all residents, in partnership with community organizations. Improving access to information about child care, supporting family services for newcomer families, and enhancing services for children with diverse needs are all important areas that the City strives to strengthen.

Highlighted Achievements

- City staff continue to sit on Richmond Children First (RCF), a community planning table that hosts RichmondKids.ca, a website providing information on resources for families with young children. Families can access information on child care and child development programs in Richmond.
- Through continued partnerships with Richmond Children First, Child Care Development Advisory Committee, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Richmond School District, and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral, the City is increasing the availability of information to Richmond families on child care and family-related resources.





5 Strategic Direction #5: Collaboration and Partnership

Why is this important?

The City of Richmond engages in and seeks partnerships and collaboration with others to advance its child care strategy. City staff continue to identify potential opportunities to work with community partners to remain well informed and prepared to respond to funding opportunities and policy changes.

Highlighted Achievements

- The City of Richmond hosted an inter-municipal roundtable discussion on child care planning in November 2017. A follow-up municipal roundtable workshop was presented by Metro Vancouver Social Issues Subcommittee in October 2018, which City of Richmond staff presented at. The purpose of these activities is to support cross-municipal interaction, share resources and learning's and to support the continued development of child care across Metro Vancouver. As Richmond is seen as a municipal leader in the area of child care, City staff are able to share a range of experiences and innovative practices that are of benefit to other communities.
- In February 2018, the City awarded \$9,000 in Child Care Professional Development grants to two organizations to support the provision of professional development activities for child care providers in Richmond. These grants enabled community organizations to offer high-quality workshops and events to support child care providers and early childhood educators.
- In May 2018, in celebration and recognition of Child Care Month, the City hosted three professional development events. These three events, Heart-Mind Well-Being Workshop, Child Care Centre Tours and Trauma-informed Practice Workshop, were eligible for professional development credits for Early Childhood Educators through the BC ECE Registry. These sessions were coordinated in partnership with the Child Care Development Advisory Committee and provided networking and educational opportunities to support child care providers in Richmond.
- In May 2018, City staff received notice that 5 child care programs located on Richmond School District school sites would not have their leases renewed by the School District for the 2018/2019 school year. The displacement of these child care programs was due to the change in classroom composition and sizes that were reinstated last year, requiring additional classroom space within all schools for their students. City staff worked with Vancouver Coastal Health Child Care Licensing and the Richmond School District to implement a coordinated inspection process that allowed displaced child care programs to quickly find approved

In 2018
\$31,093
FOR
CAPITAL
EXPENSES and
\$9,000 FOR
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



was approved through the
child care grant program

locations within alternate school locations. A Building Inspector, a Fire Prevention Officer, a VCH Licensing Officer and the Facilities Manager for the Richmond School District met at each proposed new school location to ensure that each new location was acceptable. This process quickly allowed displaced operators to confirm a new location for the 2018/2019 school year. Out of the 5 displaced programs, 4 operators accepted new locations that were approved by Building Approvals, Richmond Fire Services and VCH Child Care Licensing; one program chose not to accept their proposed new location due to the distance from their previous site.

- As a follow-up to the new provincial funding announcements, City staff participated in a roundtable meeting with Richmond child care providers and the Minister of State for Child Care, Minister Katrina Chen in November 2018. Minister Chen presented an overview of the new Provincial funding initiatives for child care and the group engaged in a productive and interactive discussion of the successes, challenges and opportunities currently facing the sector. Participants included owners, administrators and non-profit operators offering a range of child care including family child care, group child care, preschool and school-age child care. The event was jointly coordinated by City staff and the Child Care Resource and Referral Program.
- In 2017 and 2018, the City Child Care staff participated in a number of collaborative events and workshops. These events provide opportunities for staff to share local initiatives, knowledge and experience that helps to inform innovative practice, shared learning and enhances opportunities for partnership. These included:
 - The UBC Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies: Levelling the Playing Fields: Strategies to Promote Outdoor Play;
 - Two Municipal Roundtables on Child Care (Metro Vancouver);
 - Human Early Learning Partnership Research Expo;
 - Consultation on a Canadian Institute for Health Research Planning Grant on child-friendly cities;
 - The Lawson Foundation’s Outdoor Play and Early Learning Policy Research Symposium.
- Through Richmond Children First, the City is participating in the piloting of the Toddler Development Instrument (TDI), coordinated by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP). The TDI has been developed to collect parent survey data about social, family and community factors related to the health and well-being of toddlers. The TDI promises to add a critical component to HELP’s longitudinal, population-based child development monitoring system and will provide valuable information on the well-being of the City’s youngest residents.





6 Strategic Direction #6: Research, Promotion and Marketing

Why is this important?

The City has a role to conduct research on child care trends, create tools to assist the public with finding child care resources, prepare publications to help potential child care operators create child care space, and promote access to resources within the community. The following actions propose how the City is enhancing its communication using the internet and social media.

Highlighted Achievements

- City staff continue to regularly update the City's child care website. After publication of the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, the City's child care website was updated to include new documents reflective of current publications. Additional updates were made to provide information on the Affordable Child Care Benefit for families including links to the new Provincial Funding Initiatives for child care.
- In 2018, the Richmond Interactive Map on the City website was updated, including advances to the user-friendliness of the child care locator map. The City continues to collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral to share information about child care to the community.

The updated 2019 Child Care Design Guidelines will provide technical guidance for the design of all **FUTURE CITY-OWNED CHILD CARE FACILITIES**





7 Strategic Direction #7: Monitoring and Renewal

Why is this important?

With changing demographics and the evolution of the child care landscape in Richmond, the City must continue to monitor and renew its policies and strategies with updated data and research. The following actions discuss approaches for planning the next Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy as well as research work that benefits and advances the City's child care work.

Highlighted Achievements

- The City's Child Care Design Guidelines were updated at the end of 2018 and will be released in 2019. In partnership with the Project Development, Real Estate and Facilities departments, the City is in the process of developing design, development, and construction checklists related to the build out, handover and ongoing operation of City-owned child care facilities. Maintenance and Repair schedules for City-owned facilities which clearly outline responsibilities for the City as landlord and the operator have been updated and included in new child care leases and requests for interested operators of new facilities.
- The brochure, *Creating Child Care Space in Richmond*, was updated in December 2018 and further used to assist potential child care operators navigate the process of building approvals, fire approval and licensing approval when opening a child care program.
- City staff continue to stay informed on child care needs in Richmond by monitoring the number of licensed spaces, any issues raised by child care operators or members of the public, and researching trends within the Richmond community. Vancouver Coastal Health regularly submits information on new licensed spaces within Richmond to City staff, which is used to update the Child Care Locator Map and the Richmond Interactive Map, as well as provide useful data for space needs analyses. City staff are also a valuable resource for child care operators, parents and families, providing information to these individuals as well as keeping up to date on the landscape of child care in Richmond.



Since 2016, the Child Care Design Guidelines have supported the design and development of

**6 CITY-OWNED
CHILD CARE
FACILITIES**





Next Steps

The City continues to enhance and support child care in Richmond through the implementation of the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy. This report provides information on the City's progress in meeting the short-term and ongoing actions since the Strategy was adopted in July 2017. Moving forward to the second year of the Strategy's implementation, future priority areas will address the completion of long-term recommended actions, and outstanding short-term recommended actions. Future priority areas include :

- Review the Child Care Grant Program to ensure it is meeting the non-profit child care operator's needs (e.g. timing, number of grant cycles per year, budget) and seek direction on proposed changes to the Child Care Grant Program's Guidelines (e.g. eligibility criteria for organizations and types of projects).
- Continue to secure community amenity contributions through rezoning processes, focusing on the creation of early childhood development hubs in the City Centre area.
- Work with other City of Richmond departments to plan, secure and build child care spaces co-located with other community facilities.
- Review the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund policy to consider how fund contributions are apportioned to the Child Care Development Reserve Fund and the Child Care Operating Reserve Fund.
- Continue to manage and maintain existing and future City-owned child care facilities to ensure both the City and non-profit operators are fulfilling their lease obligations, leases are up to date, and facilities are well maintained.
- Pursue partnerships and funding opportunities with senior levels of government for capital investment to assist with the creation of new City-owned child care spaces in Richmond.
- Work with the City departments and sections (e.g. Accessibility and Inclusion, Planning, Project Development), as well as external organizations who focus on accessibility issues to incorporate barrier-free design into new City-owned early childhood development hubs and child care facilities and explore innovations in child care facility design for both indoor and outdoor areas that would enhance the inclusion of children who require extra supports.
- Facilitate and promote the delivery of professional development training for those employed in the delivery of licensed child care programs with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of child care programs offered in Richmond.
- Continue to work with the City's Planning Department and other related Departments to update City policies that reference child care (i.e. the Official Community Plan).

Staff will continue to monitor and report out on the completion of recommended actions within the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy through future updates detailing the progress made on ongoing, medium-term and long-term actions.

Conclusion

The 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy—2018 Update demonstrates the commitment of the City of Richmond and its stakeholders to work towards a comprehensive child care system. Many innovative programs and opportunities were initiated in 2017 and 2018 which provided families with increased opportunities to access child care and parenting resources. Some of these highlights included: the creation of 3 new child care centres providing 111 additional child care spaces; the updated Child Care Design Guidelines; securing a new Early Childhood Development Hub in the City Centre area; professional development opportunities during Child Care Month; a vulnerability review of existing child care spaces; and an update to Richmond's child care spaces needs. Moving forward, the City and its stakeholders will continue to work collaboratively in an ongoing effort to further the vision, "to continue to be a municipal leader in fostering the conditions for a comprehensive child care system in Richmond."



Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
Advocacy	14. Send a letter to the Federal Government to indicate the City of Richmond’s support for the development and implementation of a meaningful, appropriately funded Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework for Canada. (Short term)	Anticipated to begin in 2019
	15. Send letters to the Provincial Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expressing City Council’s endorsement of the \$10aDay Child Care Plan; b. Requesting that the City of Richmond be consulted about the creation and implementation of a future Provincial child care plan; and c. Recommending wage enhancements for Early Childhood Educators to attract qualified staff and to support both existing and new child care spaces (e.g. increases to the Child Care Operating Fund Program). (Short term) 	Completed
	16. Send a letter to the Provincial Government requesting that the benefit rates and eligibility provisions for the Child Care Subsidy be reviewed and increased (e.g. expanded coverage for median or moderate income families). (Short term)	Completed
	17. Send a letter to the Provincial Government requesting that they review and increase funding for Early Childhood Intervention Services in accordance with the #KidsCantWait Campaign. (Short term)	Completed
	18. Continue to monitor funding and grant opportunities along with future actions planned by senior levels of government regarding child care initiatives to maximize opportunities to enhance affordable, accessible and quality care in Richmond. (Short term)	In progress
		Completed

Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
<p>Accessibility and Inclusion</p>	<p>19. Collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Richmond School District, other schools in Richmond (e.g. private, francophone), Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral, Richmond Children First, the City of Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee, the Intercultural Advisory Committee, Community Associations, child care providers, and other appropriate parties to improve availability of information to Richmond families on child care and family-related resources. (Short term)</p>	<p>In progress</p>
	<p>20. Consult with the City of Richmond’s Accessibility and Inclusion section, the Intercultural Advisory Committee, and multicultural and immigrant serving organizations to determine ways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve the dissemination of information on child care to newcomers; and b. Establish ongoing communication channels to enable the City to keep abreast of the needs of and challenges facing recent immigrants regarding child care. (Short term) 	<p>Anticipated to begin in 2020</p> <p>Anticipated to begin in 2020</p>
	<p>21. Work with the City departments and sections, as well as external organizations who focus on accessibility issues to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporate barrier-free design into new City-owned early childhood development hubs and child care facilities; and b. Explore innovations in child care facility design for both indoor and outdoor areas that would enhance the inclusion of children who require extra supports. (Long term) 	<p>Anticipated to begin in 2020</p> <p>Anticipated to begin in 2020</p>

Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
Collaboration and Partnership	22. Continue to support the work of the City’s Child Care Development Advisory Committee with the view of building the capacity of the child care sector and parents understanding of child care options. (Short term)	In progress
	23. Facilitate and promote the delivery of professional development training for those employed in the delivery of licensed child care programs with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of programs offered in Richmond. (Long term)	In progress
	24. Continue to consult with representatives from senior levels of government, other municipalities, Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond Children First, United Way of the Lower Mainland, the UBC Human Early Learning Partnership and the First Call – BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition to ensure that the City is well informed about latest trends, research and advocacy efforts concerning child care matters. (Short term)	In progress
	25. Build and foster relationships with senior levels of government to ensure the City is consulted on federal and provincial policy changes. (Short term)	In progress
	26. Seek new partnerships around the delivery of child care services. (Long term)	In progress
	27. Host one inter-municipal roundtable workshop to share information and best practises in child care policy, facility development, grants administration, and successful advocacy approaches to senior levels of government. (Short term)	Completed
Research, Promotion and Marketing	28. Regularly update the City’s child care website to provide information on current civic initiatives related to child care and links to useful resources that build awareness and educate the community. (Short term)	In progress
	29. Monitor and share the latest trends in child care research and best practices in the delivery of quality child care programs with the City’s Child Care Development Advisory Committee, Community Associations, Richmond Children First, Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health, child care providers, and other community agencies and organizations. (Long term)	In progress
	30. Continue to develop child care educational resources and further expand the complement of promotional vehicles such as social media to share information about child care with parents and child care providers. (Short term)	In progress



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