

## **City of Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report**

Highlights of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) meetings and events are outlined below:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic had a dramatic impact on the work of the CCDAC in 2020. Due to public health restrictions and guidance, face to face meetings were suspended in mid-March. Meetings resumed in a virtual context in September 2020.
2. “Supporting Richmond’s Children: A Symposium Celebrating Child Care Month for Early Childhood Educators, Child Care Providers and Parents”, which was planned by CCDAC to celebrate Child Care Month in May, was transitioned to an online format. Three workshops were delivered over a three week period with over 100 participants in attendance. All three workshops were introduced with a short video from Mayor Brodie to proclaim May as Child Care Month. The workshops focused on the importance of the outdoors and the presenters provided support to parents and Early Childhood Educators during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. CCDAC members provided feedback on the four City-owned child care development projects, including ideas for the future use and programming of two Early Childhood Development Hubs.
4. The CCDAC reviewed and monitored several funding programs initiated by senior levels of government to support child care initiatives. These included the Child Care BC Temporary Emergency Funding Program and the Health and Safety Grants in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Rapid Renovation Funding Program to support Health Authorities, School Districts and public post-secondary institutions to create additional child care spaces.
5. The CCDAC reviewed the applications submitted for the City’s 2021 Child Care Grants and made recommendations to City Council on awarding the grants.
6. In 2020, the City was awarded a grant from the Union of BC Municipalities to complete the 2021 – 2031 Richmond Child Care Action Plan. The CCDAC provided input into the project and assisted with prioritizing the actions identified to support the creation of additional child care spaces in Richmond.

### **Members of the 2020 Child Care Development Advisory Committee**

Voting:

1. Kathy Moncalieri (Chair)
2. Jarrod Connolly (Vice Chair)
3. Maryam Bawa
4. Agnes Lee

5. Sarah Louie
6. Diana Ma
7. Chantelle Pereira
8. Rowena Raber
9. Gordon Surgeson
10. Zolzaya Tuguldar
11. Elana van Veen
12. Manvir Johal (January to September)

External Organizations (Non-voting):

1. Jocelyn Wong (Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral)

Council Representative (Non-Voting)

1. Councillor Kelly Greene (January to November)

School Board Liaison (Non-Voting)

1. Trustee Heather Larson

Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)

1. Chris Duggan, Program Manager, Child Care

Recording Secretary (Non-Voting)

1. Karlee Grant (January to July)

**2020 CCDAC Budget**

CCDAC received an operating budget of \$4,000 for 2020. The funds were allocated as follows:

Item	Cost
Recording Secretary Salary	\$1,400.00
Meeting and Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,600.00
Child Care Month Events	\$ 1000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4000.00</b>

**Closing Comments**

The Committee adapted to the challenges and unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and successfully hosted a virtual child care symposium, participated in the City Child Care Grants process, and monitored pandemic-related funding initiatives offered by the Provincial and Federal Governments. During this challenging period, CCDAC members demonstrated flexibility and creativity to continue to deliver many of the activities outlined in the 2020 Work Program.

Committee members shared feedback on their experience as CCDAC members over the past year during the November meeting. All members present described their experience as positive. The following quotes are a sample of the overall comments about the role of the Committee, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the member's involvement:

- I am proud to be a member of this committee. It has been an honour to share the richness of what I have learned about child care in our city with young families in the community.
- As an operator I value the support that CCDAC endeavours to provide. Having a chance to discuss the issues, concerns and needs of both families and operators I feel as an individual that I have a platform by which I can hopefully make a contribution to my city and to a field that I care deeply about.
- I am grateful for the opportunities that serving on this committee has given me to connect with others in this field to build a broader network of support where centres are able to discuss ideas and concerns and support and guide each other through what I would say is one of the most challenging medical crisis' to face my generation.
- COVID-19 has changed the landscape of our society and in order to stay relevant and current we need to be cognisant of how things have changed to ensure that we are also changing with our community and not relying on the way things were, but looking forward to the new direction that things are moving in for the progress and betterment of our city.
- I think as the effects of this COVID-19 crisis begin to materialize we will soon see whether the landscape of Childcare has been altered and if so which areas are in need of support or increased public awareness through education and involvement in the community.
- By operating a committee such as CCDAC the City of Richmond shows that the needs of families and supporting operators are a priority to the leadership of our city. Children are our future and investing time and resources into enabling facilities to provide quality and affordable childcare is so important.

The CCDAC continues to have a wide range of representation from child care operators; parents who use child care services in Richmond; teachers; and service providers who support the provision of child care including Supported Child Development and Child Care Resource and Referral. The diversity of perspectives and experiences has enabled the Committee to engage in debate, respond to the needs of the Richmond community and creatively identify ways to support the development of a comprehensive child care system in Richmond.

The Committee benefitted from the participation and support of Councillor Kelly Greene and Trustee Heather Larson as the City Council and School Board liaisons. Councillor Greene regularly shared information and highlights on matters related to child care involving City Council. It has been a great benefit to the Committee to have regular updates from the School Board particularly on the school district's plans for long-range facility planning and upcoming child care projects.

Chris Duggan, staff liaison, was a respected resource for all committee members and her expertise and collaboration were appreciated. We value her hard work in shepherding the committee through 2020. She does an excellent job of onboarding new members; helping them to feel welcome and included. This committee would not be as effective as it is without her support.

As Chair, I have felt honoured to be a part of a committee with such enthusiasm and dedication for improving the experiences of those who live and work in Richmond. I am now saying farewell to the committee as my service year terms are completed. I am truly impressed that the City has formed this advisory group and that City Council hears and works with the suggestions given. The investment and interest that the City has in its youngest citizens and their families is admirable and appreciated.

**Prepared by:**

*Kathy Moncalieri. Chair*

*Child Care Development Advisory Committee, December 2020*