

REPORT TO: Council  
REPORT FROM: Community Planning & Infrastructure  
PRESENTED: October 16, 2018  
SUBJECT: Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment & Strategy 2018-2023

FOR: Committee of the Whole  
FILE:

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**Recommendation:**

That Council approve the following resolutions:

**THAT** the District of Squamish receive and endorse the *Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy 2018 to 2023*;

**THAT** the District of Squamish designate a staff liaison to collaborate with an emergent Child Care Strategy Implementation Committee to support advancement of community child care actions and partnerships;

**AND THAT** the District of Squamish direct staff to work with the Child Care Strategy Implementation Committee to prepare and submit grant applications under the UBCM 2019 community child care action planning and space creation programs by January 18, 2019.

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**1. Objective:**

This report presents the finalized *Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* prepared by SPARC BC and recommends a number of initial implementation tasks for District consideration, including preparation of funding applications for the recently released UBCM community child care grant programs available to local governments.

**2. Background:**

The District has increasingly engaged with and focused on needs of its growing child and family population, starting with healthy community collaborations 2013-2015 that led to the creation of the Squamish Children's Charter, followed by early childhood and age-friendly policy development for the Squamish2040 OCP, and participation with United Way in the Avenues of Change project. Of particular concern are continued vulnerability rates of local kindergarten kids ([EDI data 2001-2016](#)), increasing demand for child care while the supply of licensed child care spaces has stayed relatively constant, as well as overall labour challenges in maintaining qualified ECE-trained staff given overall affordability challenges within the community, particularly for low-income families (high cost and limited availability of housing, cost of child care).

Given these issues, in 2018, the District contributed funds towards a child care needs assessment and the development of a child care strategy, led by the Sea to Sky Putting Children First Initiative. Of the total project cost of \$19,960, the District contributed \$9,000, augmenting the base provincial funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

**3. Project Information:**

The Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy comprises Attachment 1. The strategy gives guidance on supporting child care and early childhood education, and presents a vision, strategic priorities and child care targets for the next 5 years to improve the access rate for affordable, accessible and high quality child care in line with projected growth.

The set of strategies, actions and partnerships recommended through the Strategy are based on the core principle that shared leadership and collaboration is needed to improve the child care situation for families. The various roles and responsibilities of governments and partners are clearly highlighted, as part of a ‘whole community’ approach to resolving local child care issues. The District plays a role in policy, planning and coordinating for child care, advocacy and supporting the delivery of child care and early learning spaces. As a critical community amenity, child care remains closely tied to the overall affordability equation, and supports children’s development socially, linguistically, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

### Child Care Access Rate – Targets for 2023

The District’s child care access rate is a defined OCP Performance Indicator (#23 Early Childhood Development) to track the number of child care spaces relative to the local child population aged 0-14 over time. In 2016 there were 20 spaces per 100 children aged 0-14; this rate forms the baseline for monitoring progress on early childhood policy objectives and supports. This baseline is slightly above the 2016 provincial access rate of 18 spaces per 100 children 0-12 years (and MetroVan’s average access rate of 18.5 spaces per 100 children 0-12 as of 2015).

With an annual average population growth rate of 2.4% per year (lower growth scenario), to maintain the current access rate of 20:100, a minimum of 90 new spaces or 18/year would be required over the next 5 years (Figure 1). However, given that almost 70% of family survey respondents felt there is an inadequate supply of child care in Squamish and 25% currently have a child on a child care waitlist, this access rate is considered insufficient. The strategy also presents an ambitious ‘reach’ target to test the space requirement to provide 30 spaces per 100 children 0-14 in Year 2023: a minimum of 525 new spaces or 105/year over 5 years are estimated. Staff note this target exceeds the access rates in the Metro Vancouver region, which vary considerably (24-27 spaces per 100 children on the North Shore, and 12-15 spaces per 100 in Surrey and Port Moody, respectively).

Licensed Child Care Targets	Lower Growth Scenario		Higher Growth Scenario	
% population increase	2.4% per year	12.6% overall	3.0% per year	15.9% overall
# Children ages 0-14 years in 2023	4,346		4,475	
Total spaces needed to maintain access rate of 20 spaces per 100 children	869		895	
Increase of spaces needed to maintain access rate of 20 spaces per 100 children	Total: 90	18/year over 5 years	Total: 116	23/year over 5 years
Total spaces needed to increase access rate to 30 spaces per 100 children	1,304		1,342	
Increase of spaces needed to increase access rate to 30 spaces per 100 children	Total: 525	105/year over 5 years	Total: 563	112.5/year over 5 years

Figure 1 Child Care Targets (Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, SPARC BC)

Through the work of the Implementation Committee, these targets will be further considered in conjunction with specific actions identified in the strategy in order to improve the current child care access rate and meet future projected needs. Child care spaces/facilities are recommended to be prioritized in neighbourhoods with high child populations, as well as near existing and future planned family service or neighbourhood hubs, schools, and recreation centres.

### **Emerging Funding Opportunities 2019 (Attachment 3)**

Two new provincial funding programs for the child care sector were announced in September 2018 that will be administered through UBCM. These programs aim to improve access to child care with the goal of creating thousands of new licensed spaces in BC over the next 3 years. This funding is available to local governments for community child care:

- Space creation action plans to meet child care targets (up to \$25,000); and
- New licensed space creation within government-owned facilities for children aged 0-5 with a focus on spaces for infants and toddlers (up to \$1Million)

Staff recommend that the District initiate internal discussion respecting the long-range Real Estate Strategy and Facilities Strategy master planning, and simultaneously work with the child care implementation committee to discuss an action plan proposal for submittal. Prior to submitting any applications in January 2019, staff will provide an update to Council regarding specific grant proposals.

#### **4. Implications:**

##### **a. Budget:**

No further budget is required for completion of the child care strategy. However, collectively community partners will need to find resources and operationalize the Child Care Strategy Implementation Committee. This is particularly important given that as of March 2019, operational funding for the Sea to Sky PCFI table (from United Way's *Success by 6* and BC's *Children First* initiatives over the last 15 years) is being redirected via MCFD towards programs and services delivered directly by agencies through regional and community offices. This presents a significant shift in coordination of investment, from community tables run by local coordinators to government-led early years planning.

As noted in Section 3 of this report, additional grant funding may be accessed to further child care action planning and for the creation of new child care spaces in the community through UBCM.

An opportunity also exists to utilize allocated CAC funds from recent rezoning development contributions (Table 1). A total of \$43,286 in the municipal CAC reserve fund is earmarked for child care to support child care capital investments. This would be a form of direct support by the District. Determining the specific use of available child care CAC reserve funds will be discussed with the Child Care Implementation Committee and brought back to Council for recommendation.

**b. Organizational Impact:**

As outlined in the strategy, a municipal child care liaison is recommended to work with partners as part of the implementation committee. This is a common approach to facilitate child care: nearly half of Metro Vancouver municipalities have a dedicated child care resource person ([Municipal Survey of Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver 2015](#)).

This liaison role is recommended for integration within the Community Planning Department work plan, subject to the strategic direction of Council. Specific action implementation (such as collating and disseminating updated child care licensing information on the District's website) is also anticipated to draw on staff resources in building, fire, finance and communications.

**c. Policy:**

Squamish2040 OCP | Quality Affordable Child Care

**Objective 28.7** *Accessible, affordable, quality child care is available to meet demand throughout the community.*

**Policies 28.8**

- a. *Work with community partners to closely monitor and assess local child care needs, including the number and distribution of licensed daycares throughout the community.*
- b. *Work with community partners to develop a long-term Child Care Strategy to address critical issues such as lack of available space, shortage and high cost of care for children under 36 months, and the need for before and after school-age care.*
- c. *Encourage the provision of child care amenities within neighbourhood developments. Encourage large employers and developers of mixed use commercial and multi-unit developments to provide on-site amenity child care space.*
- d. *Consider offering land and make provision for co-locating child care spaces in municipal facilities for long-term, low-lease to non-profit operators to provide licensed child care.*
- e. *Work with School District 48 to establish a Child Care Protocol to stabilize existing and increase the viability of new child care spaces/programs to ensure no loss in space under the parties' collective control, and plan for joint use of space for new child care spaces.*

Early Childhood Development

**Objective 25.7** *Provide Squamish kids with a good developmental start.*

**Policies 25.8**

- a. *Work with provincial agencies, School District 48, Vancouver Coastal Health, First Nations, non-governmental organizations, and local service providers to monitor and develop a strategy to reduce local child vulnerabilities both at the community wide and neighbourhood levels.*
- b. *Uphold the Squamish Children's Charter of Rights and apply a child and family lens in community planning, policies, programming, and service delivery.*

- c. *Work with early years community partners to promote early childhood development initiatives and support for local families and caregivers by enhancing accessibility to programs and services in the community.*
- d. *Lobby senior governments and work with community partners to leverage greater funding for early learning and development, and development of a high quality, affordable and accessible child care system.*

**d. Bylaws:**

Other key bylaws pertinent to facilitating child care spaces in Squamish include the Zoning Bylaw, Building Bylaw, Business License Bylaw and Fees and Charges Bylaw. Staff will continue to review and recommend regulatory changes to ensure alignment to meet community objectives for affordable, accessible and quality child care provision.

**5. Council Priority Areas**

**Environment:**

N/A.

**Economic Development**

Like affordable housing, child care is relevant to families' ability to participate in the local workforce and sustaining economic growth and quality of life for all. Child care is related to community infrastructure planning per the identified 'Connect Place Plan' priority activities in the Economic Development Action Plan.

**Healthy Community**

The child care strategy aligns with the District's healthy community goal and objectives for improving early childhood development.

**Open and Transparent Government**

Development of the child care needs assessment and strategy *Involved* (IAP2) children, families, agencies and child care providers through series of consultation sessions, community surveys that saw exceptional participation rates, as well as stakeholder meetings throughout the three project stages.

Preparation of the strategy involved a needs assessment and data analysis, including a community survey of parents/guardians and child care providers with the participation of 478 parents and 26 child care managers, owners and operators. Further engagement involved community members, parents, child care providers (owners, managers, staff), agencies and other key stakeholders including the School District, VCH, and Squamish Nation staff. Data and a synthesis of key themes informing the strategy were summarized in a series of short summary reports (see Technical Appendices Attachment 2).

**6. Next Implementation Steps:**

Next steps following endorsement of the strategy include forming the cross-sectoral implementation committee in late 2018, which is recommended to be led by the PCFI table coordinator (initially) as described in Attachment 1, Section 8.0. Immediate actions include

developing a terms of reference and leadership structure to guide the committee's work together, as well as establishing a long-term sustainable funding structure.

**7. Attachments:**

1. Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy 2018-2021 (SPARC BC)
2. Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment - Technical Appendices (3)
3. UBCM Child Care Grant Opportunities 2019 - Excerpt

**8. Alternatives to Staff Recommendation:**

THAT the District of Squamish refer the *Squamish Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy 2018 to 2021* to a future Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion.

**9. Staff Review**

**Prepared By:**

Sarah McJannet, RPP MCIP  
Planner

**Reviewed By:**

Jonas Velaniskis, Director of Community Planning  
Gary Buxton, General Manager of Community Planning & Infrastructure

**CAO Recommendation:**

That the recommendation of the Community Planning Department be approved.

Linda Glenday, CAO

## Attachment 3 | UBCM Child Care Grant Opportunities 2019

<https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/child-care.html>

**Applications are currently being accepted. The application deadline for both programs is January 18, 2019.**

In order to better meet the child care needs of families, the Province of British Columbia recently announced expanded investment in the child care sector totaling \$1 billion over three years. This includes \$237 million to improve access to child care, including funding the creation of 22,000 new licensed child care spaces.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is providing \$3 million for the Community Child Care Planning Program. In addition, the Community Child Care Space Creation Program, funded under the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, will provide \$13.7 million to fund the creation of new licensed child care spaces in local government-owned facilities.

Both funding programs will be administered by the UBCM.

### Community Child Care Space Creation Program

The Community Child Care Space Creation Program will provide funding to local governments to create new licensed child care spaces within their own facilities for children aged 0-5, with a focus on spaces for infants and toddlers.

[2019 Community Child Care Space Creation Program & Application Guide \[PDF - 553 KB\]](#)

[2019 Community Child Care Space Creation Application Form \[DOCX - 73 KB\]](#)

### Community Child Care Planning Program

The Community Child Care Planning Program will provide funding for local governments to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan.

[2019 Community Child Care Planning Program & Application Guide \[PDF - 587 KB\]](#)

[2019 Community Child Care Planning Application Form \[DOCX - 68 KB\]](#)

[2019 Community Child Care Planning Inventory - SAMPLE ONLY \[XLSX - 4.5 MB\]](#)