

Council Member Motion For the Committee of the Whole of December 6th, 2018

To: Committee of the Whole Date: November 28, 2018

From: Councillors Loveday and Mayor Helps

Subject: Creating a Citywide Childcare Action Plan

Background

There is an acute need for more childcare and before-and-after school spaces in the City of Victoria. In response to this urgent need and at the request of childcare providers, Mayor Helps convened the "Childcare Solutions Working Group", which has been meeting regularly for the past 18 months. The Working Group is comprised of non-profit childcare providers that currently provide childcare in City-owned facilities, a representative from the Province, representatives from Island Health, including the Chief Medical Officer, representatives from School District 61, and the business community including the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce.

Working collaboratively, the "Childcare Solutions Working Group" has identified a number of short, medium and long-term solutions including the addition of Modular Learning Studios to accommodate the increase in childcare capacity. Working with non-profit childcare providers currently running childcare programs out of City-owned facilities, School District 61, and Island Health, a funding application has been submitted to the Province to fund the creation of new childcare spaces in Victoria starting in 2019. The Province announced funding for the first 57 of these spaces on November 27th. This work provides a strong foundation for the creation of a City-Wide Childcare Action Plan.

A City-Wide Childcare Action Plan will help the City and its partners be ready to access resources from the Provincial Government and facilitate the creation of childcare for the families of Victoria. The Action Plan should include considering what the City and its partners can do to incentivize and help create new spaces and also what the City can do to get out of the way of care providers who want to create spaces. What can the city do to make City processes less cumbersome, easier to navigate and more responsive to prospective childcare providers?

The Province has committed significant investments to childcare including funding for communities to create childcare action plans. The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development is earmarking \$2.85 million for the Community Child Care Planning Program. Under the program, eligible projects can receive up to \$25,000. The program is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The deadline for application is January 18, 2019.

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We recommended that Council commits to creating and implementing a City-Wide Childcare Action Plan and directs staff to apply for funding from Community Child Care Planning Program as a first step.

Recommendation:

Council commits to the development and implementation of a City-Wide Child Care Action Plan to increase access to childcare for families in neighbourhoods across the City.

Council direct staff to apply for the Community Child Care Planning Program funding as a first step towards building a City-Wide childcare Action Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Jeremy Loveday

Mayor Lisa Helps

Attachments:

- https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/LGPS/Childcare/childcar e-2019-planning-programguide.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1uktDAzL2m0MMIZ1uSI5UQOhevBwsS4p8opGXxRDiD51NY6sz6ZQry-o
- https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/childcare.html?fbclid=IwAR0uwi6U-GhASS6vNcK0P5ur0Jr9UMGKPn8PcG9Nnncv5v326KzhLttxtf0
- https://pubvictoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=25343

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